HANATOYUME COMICS

NAMAIKIZAKARI

6

MIYUKI MITSUBASHI

なまいきざかり。

もくじ

- 第31話 ——→ 003
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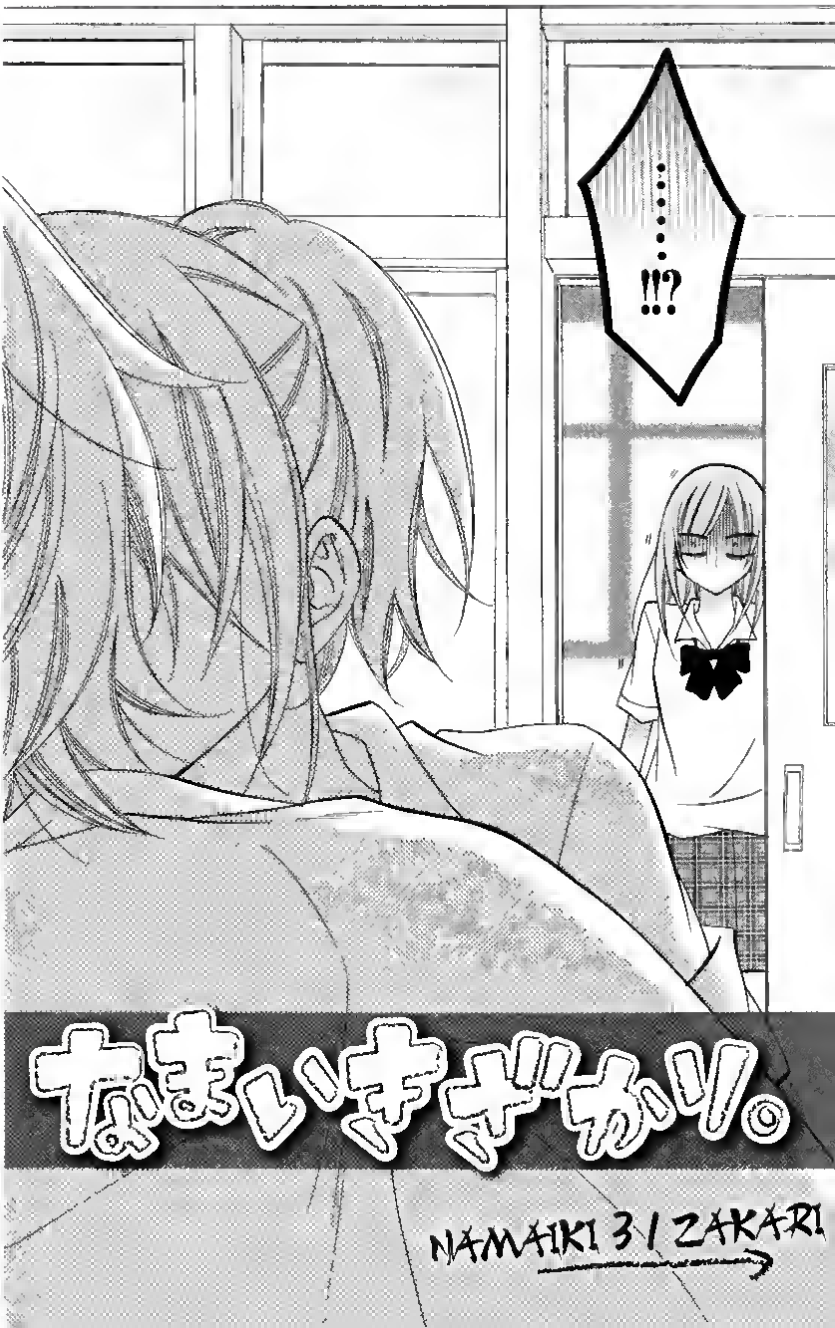
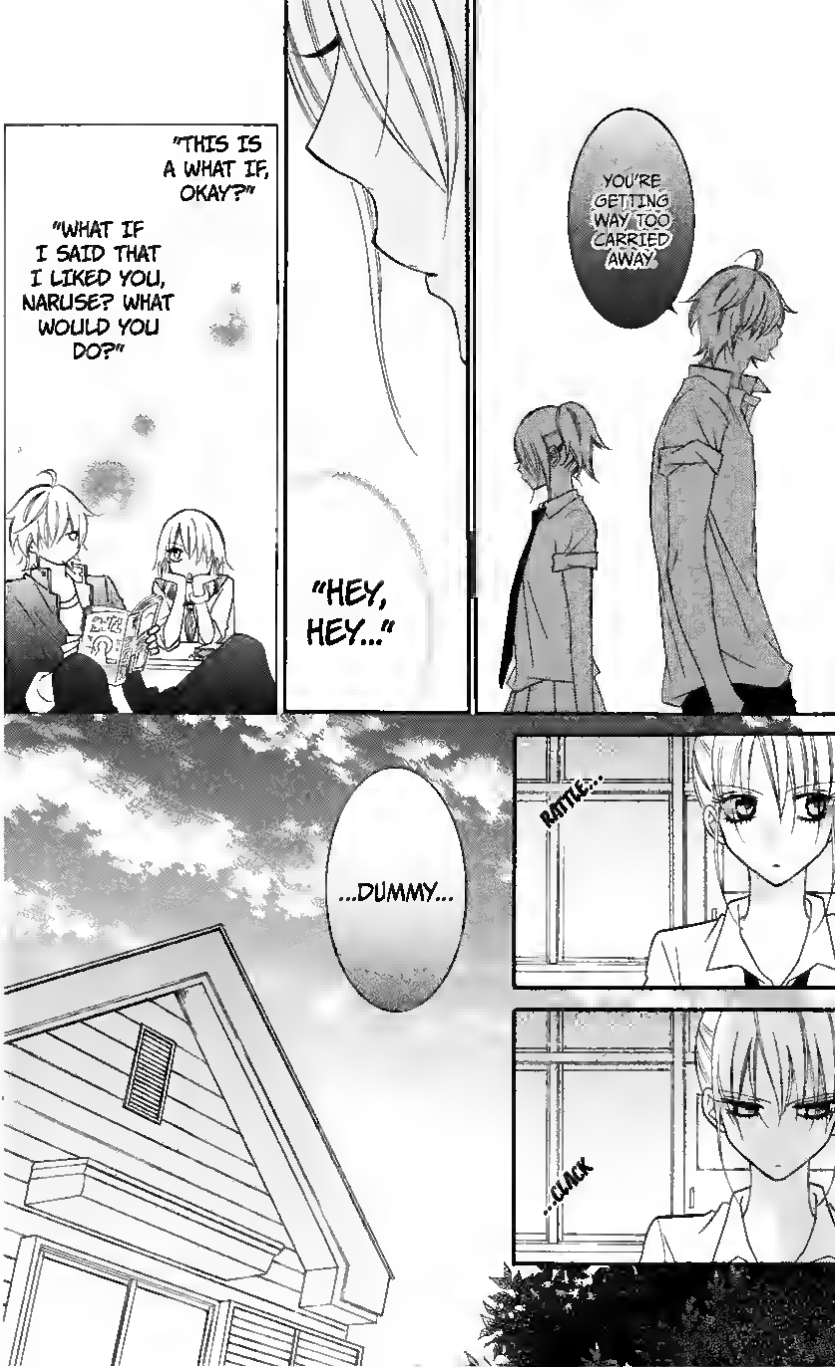
この作品はフィクションです。 実在の人物・団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

"TRY CLOSING YOUR EYES..."
"...YOU CAN THINK OF ME AS MACHIDA -SENPAI IF YOU WANT."


……!!?
なまいきざかり。
NAMAIKI ZAKARI

...CHACK!
...!
!
HEY, WAS SOME-ONE JUST...
.....
DON'T WIPE YOUR MOUTH RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE PERSON WHO KISSED YOU!
You're doing it on purpose!!
THERE WAS SOME MAKE-UP OR SOME JUNK...
WHY'RE YOU ACTING LIKE SOME LITTLE MIDDLE SCHOOLER?!
IT WASN'T EVEN YOUR FIRST OR ANYTHING!
ANYWAY, YOU KNOW...
ゴシゴシ
DON'T WIPE IT!

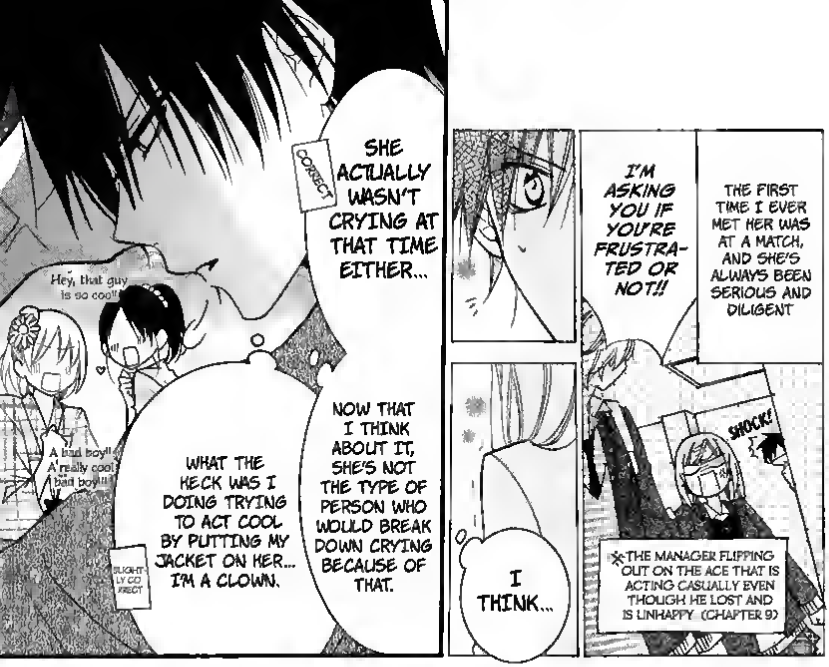

"THIS IS A WHAT IF, OKAY?"
"WHAT IF I SAID THAT I LIKED YOU, NARUSE? WHAT WOULD YOU DO?"
"HEY, HEY..."
YOU'RE GETTING WAY TOO CARRIED AWAY.
...DUMMY...
RATTLE...
...CLACK

AH, NEE-CHAN, YOU'RE HOME.
YOU TOOK SO LONG SO WE ATE ALL THE SOMEN WITHOUT YOU.
THAT'S FINE.
HEY, WHO WAS THAT HANDSOME GUY?! WHO WAS IT?!
A PERSON RELATED TO MY CLUB ACTIVITIES.
.....
.....
WHAT WAS THAT?!?!
WH...

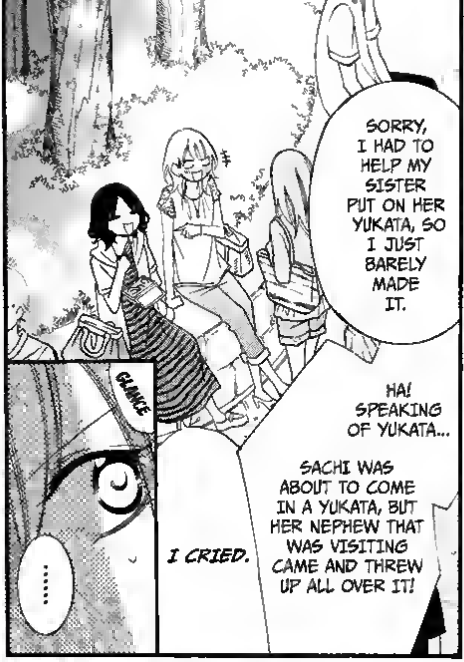
NARUSE HAS GIVEN UP ON WAITING FOR ME...?
BECAUSE ICHII-SAN LIKES NARUSE,
AND SHE MUST HAVE CLEARLY DECLARED THAT...
SO BASI-CALLY...
AND SO, I SAW THE SCENE WHERE NARUSE DIDN'T REJECT HER.
WHY...
WHY WERE NARUSE AND ICHII-SAN...
WE...
WELL, THE ANSWER TO "WHY" IS PROBABLY...
HE...
HELLO?
FINISHED FOR THE DAY? NICE!
AH, YUKI?
VIBRATE!
!!
BATTOMP!

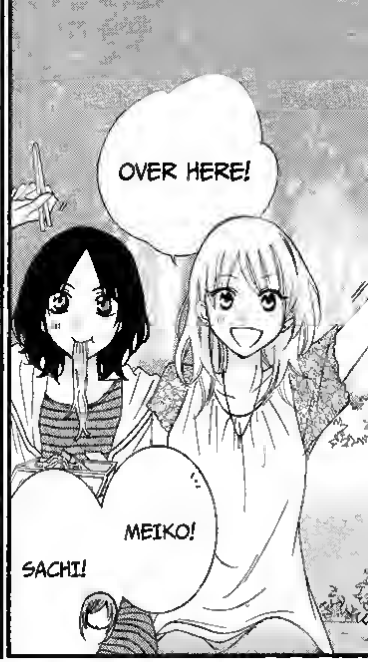
1
VOLUME 6
HELLO!!
IT'S MIYUKI!!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR PURCHASING NAMAIKIZAKARI VOLUME 6!
VOLUME 6... WE'RE ENTERING UNKNOWN TERRITORY NOW...
I WAS ENGROSSED IN MY WORK, SO IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN DRAWING FOR A LONG TIME, BUT... IT'S ALREADY BEEN TWO YEARS!!
WAH... SO FAST!!
I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE ONCE MORE FOR CHEERING ME ON!!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!
THIS VOLUME IS BEING RELEASED IN FEBRUARY, BUT THE STORY IS CONTINUING FROM LAST TIME, AND IT IS SUMMER
AS I AM WRITING THIS, THE WINTER SHOGUN IS KNOCKING AT MY DOOR, AND I AM SHIVERING AND COLD BUT THE STORY IS CURRENTLY IN THE MIDST OF SUMMER
HERE'S THE HOT AND BURNING START TO NAMAIKIZAKARI VOLUME 6!!!
It never ends!
CRUNCH, CRUNCH!
Oh
SACHI!
HEYAA! DIDJA HAVE CLUB AGAIN TODAY?
MEIKO AND I ARE OVER HERE COOLING OFF AFTER AN ALL-DAY HOMEWORK CRAM SESSION!
BUT ANYWAY!
YUKI, YOU'RE GOING TO THE FESTIVAL TOMORROW, RIGHT?
HEY...
HM?
カステラ

HEY, COME ON NOW, HAKAMADA!
What do you wanna do? Go up to him?
What, no way, he's definitely waiting for a girlfriend!
And doesn't it look like his stomach is hurting or something?
You're right he's sweating a lot...
THE GIRLS WON'T COME UP TO YOU IF YOU MAKE SUCH A SOUR FACE.
WHY DO YOU THINK I MADE YOU DRESS UP IN A YUKATA?
I DON'T KNOW AND I DON'T CARE!
Haha!
And people keep staring at me!
Of course, because you're the bait
AWW, WHAT?
YOU'RE GIVING UP THAT FAST?
THERE WAS NOTHING TO GIVE UP IN THE FIRST PLACE...
...BASKETBALL IS THE ONLY THING ON THAT PERSON'S MIND RIGHT NOW.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
BY THE WAY, DID MACHIDA-SAN COME TODAY?
I DON'T KNOW EITHER.
STAB
STAB


SHE ACTUALLY WASN'T CRYING AT THAT TIME EITHER...
CORRECT
Hey, that guy is so cool!
A bad boy!! A really cool bad boy!!
WHAT THE HECK WAS I DOING TRYING TO ACT COOL BY PUTTING MY JACKET ON HER... I'M A CLOWN.
SLIGHTLY CORRECT
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, SHE'S NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO WOULD BREAK DOWN CRYING BECAUSE OF THAT.
I THINK...
I'M ASKING YOU IF YOU'RE FRUSTRATED OR NOT!!
THE FIRST TIME I EVER MET HER WAS AT A MATCH, AND SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN SERIOUS AND DILIGENT
SHOCK!
*THE MANAGER FLIPPING OUT ON THE ACE THAT IS ACTING CASUALLY EVEN THOUGH HE LOST AND IS UNHAPPY. (CHAPTER 9)

...I JUST...
STAB
Ah!
YUKIIII!
WANT TO BE ABLE TO STAND OFF AGAINST HER ON THE SAME STAGE. I'D BE FINE WITH JUST THAT.


SORRY, I HAD TO HELP MY SISTER PUT ON HER YUKATA, SO I JUST BARELY MADE IT.
HA! SPEAKING OF YUKATA...
SACHI WAS ABOUT TO COME IN A YUKATA, BUT HER NEPHEW THAT WAS VISITING CAME AND THREW UP ALL OVER IT!
I CRIED.
GLANCE
.....


OVER HERE!
MEIKO!
SACHI!

A FESTIVAL, HUH...
A LOT OF THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING, SO I FORGOT THAT I MADE THAT PROMISE..
LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE I KNOW HERE, JUST LIKE AT THE POOL...
Tono-kuun, wait for me!
Don't run, you'll fall!
Give me your hand!
I WONDER IF...
ALREADY FOUND ONE.

OH.
MAYBE NARUSE IS HERE TOO...

IF IT ISN'T MANAGER MACHIDA!
OH?
SHOUJI-KUN, YASHIRO-KUN.
Good evening
YOU'RE NOT WITH NARUSE?
WHY NOT?
EVEN IF YOU ASK ME THAT, I HAVE NO ANSWER.
HUH? "NARUSE -KUN?!"
WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN YUKI AND NARUSE -KUN?!
NOTHING.
I'M GOING TO GO BUY SHAVED ICE.
(ESCAPING)
AH, GEEZ...
IT'S CROWDED SO I'LL BUY SOME FOR YOU TWO TOO
WHAT FLAVORS?
MELON!
COLA!
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF PLAYING AROUND AT A FESTIVAL LIKE THIS
NO LUXURY IN A LOT OF WAYS.
CHATTER CHATTER
KOOM KOOM
...I BET NARUSE DIDN'T COME.
SINCE HE HATES PLACES WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE.
IN THE END...

I RAN AND LEFT SCHOOL YESTER-DAY WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING OR KNOWING WHAT TO DO.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THOSE TWO WERE TALKING ABOUT TOGE-THER.
...BUT I WANT TO KNOW.
I'M SCARED.
OUCH!
SQUASH!
GRAB!
Yakisoba or Udon?
BU!
COLA AND MELON AND...!
Um... C...
MA... MACCHA...!
3 lemons!
SQUISH!
NEXT CUSTOMER PLEASE!
B... BUT SE-RIOUSLY, IT'S SO CROW-DED!
what should we do?
I can't see the menu.
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE...

MISTER!
ONE COLA, ONE MELON, AND ONE MACCHA!
Got it!
HE...

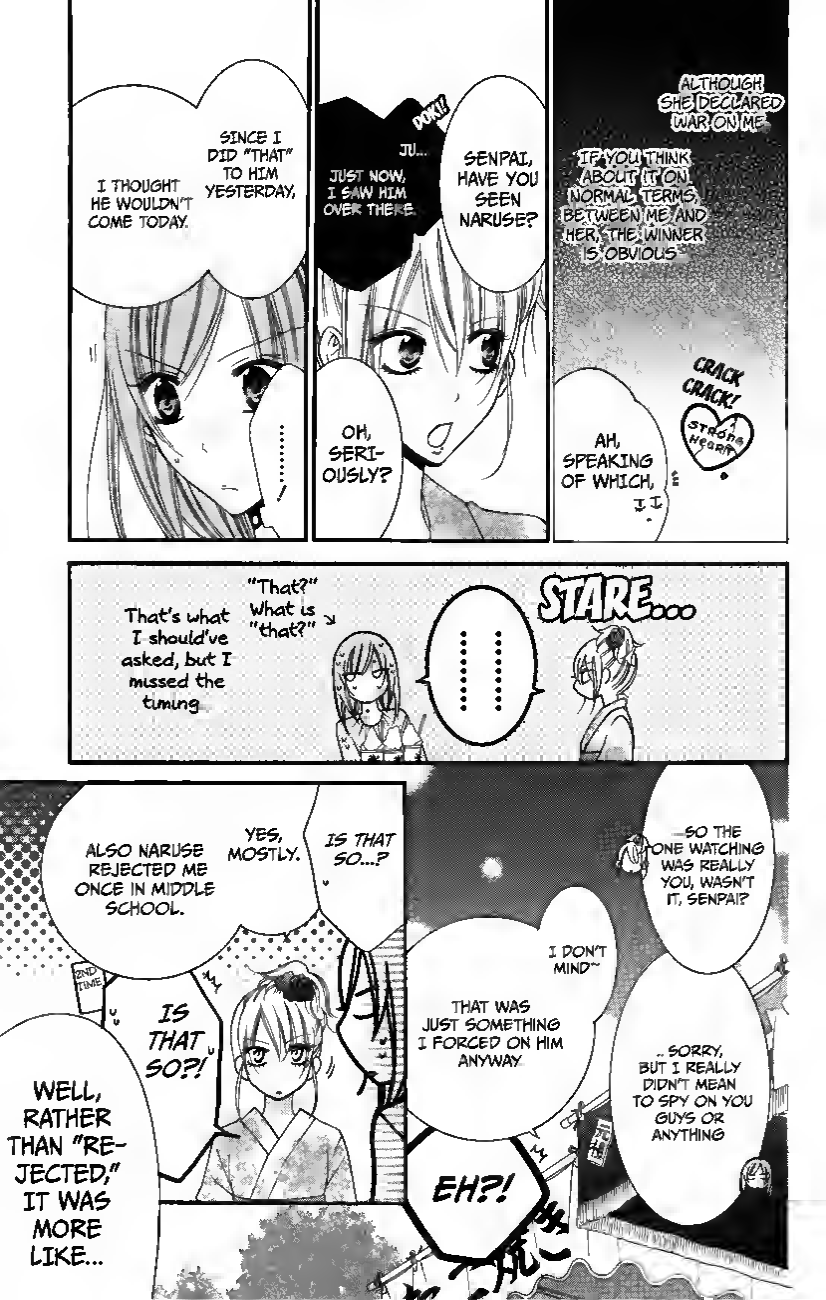
HE'S HERE!!!
SENPAI, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE YOUR WAY THROUGH CROWDS AT ALL.
HERE.
TH...
THANK YOU...
...WHAT SHOULD I DO...

FOR SOME REASON,
I CAN'T LOOK AT HIS FACE...
YUKI -SENPAI.

WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING A YUKATA?
CASUAL CLOTHES AT A FESTIVAL DOESN'T AROUSE ME AT ALL.
LIKE I CARE.
I LOOKED AT HIM JUST LIKE USUAL.
AT HIS FACE...

HE'S HERE! NARU-SE!
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' OVER HERE? OUR SPOT FOR WATCHING THE FIREWORKS IS GONN', BE STOLEN!
HM...
...OH WELL. I'LL CALL YOU ON THE PHONE LATER.
THIS IS NO GOOD...
WHAT AM I DOING GETTING ALL RE-LIEVED...
OH...
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOME-THING, SENPAI.
DOKI...
THAT'S RIGHT... ALSO...
...HERE IT COMES...
SO, YOU KNOW...
...WHAT IS IT?
AH!

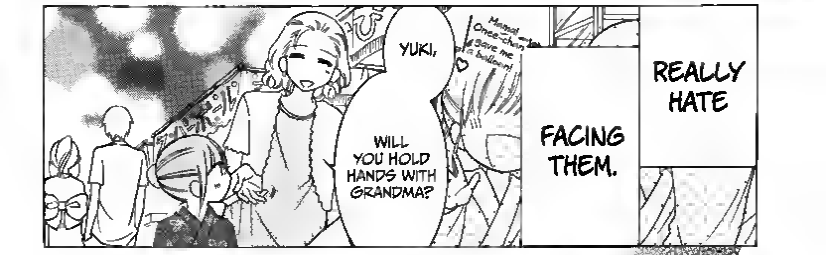
CRACK
MACHIDA -SENPAI?
STRONG HEART
I DECIDED THAT I WAS GOING TO FACE HIM STRAIGHT AND TALK TO HIM.
THAT'S RIGHT, GET IT TOGE-THER!
STRENGTHEN YOUR HEART...
WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING A YUKATA?
.....
...ICHII -SAN.
THAT WAS CLOSE... IT ALMOST BECAME SOME KIND OF WEIRD TRIANGLE.
...GOOD EVENING.
Good evening!
BUT SERI-OUSLY, THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE! I SHOULDN'T HAVE WORN A YUKATA!
...ICHII -SAN...
Anyway, ALL of my friends are LATE! Once they get here, I'm seriously going to nose hook them!!!
SHE'S CUTE...


ALTHOUGH SHE DECLARED WAR ON ME
"IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT ON NORMAL TERMS, BETWEEN ME AND HER, THE WINNER IS OBVIOUS"
CRACK CRACK!
STRONG HEART
AH, SPEAKING OF WHICH, ...
SENPAI, HAVE YOU SEEN NARUSE?
POKE!
JU...
JUST NOW, I SAW HIM OVER THERE.
OH, SERI-OUSLY?
SINCE I DID "THAT" TO HIM YESTERDAY,
I THOUGHT HE WOULDN'T COME TODAY.
.....
STARE...
.....
"That?" What is "that?"
That's what I should've asked, but I missed the timing
...SO THE ONE WATCHING WAS REALLY YOU, WASN'T IT, SENPAI?
I DON'T MIND~
THAT WAS JUST SOMETHING I FORCED ON HIM ANYWAY
.. SORRY, BUT I REALLY DIDN'T MEAN TO SPY ON YOU GUYS OR ANYTHING
EH?!
IS THAT SO...?
YES, MOSTLY.
ALSO NARUSE REJECTED ME ONCE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
END TIME
IS THAT SO?!
WELL, RATHER THAN "RE-JECTED," IT WAS MORE LIKE...

HEY, HEY...
3-2
THIS IS A WHAT IF, OKAY?
HMM?
WHAT IF...
I SAID THAT I LIKED YOU, NARUSE?
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
FU!
GROSS, DON'T EVEN JOKE ABOUT THAT.

...SO YEAH, HE JUST LAUGHED IT OFF AND IGNORED ME.
THE PINNACLE OF LOW-LIFES!
AND WHEN HIS OWN CONFESSION ISN'T GOING WELL, HE GETS REALLY STUBBORN AND WILLFUL
TELL ME!
BUT...
THAT WAS THEN.
RIGHT NOW,
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'LL DO.
THE REASON ICHII-SAN IS CUTE
IS NOT JUST BECAUSE SHE'S WEARING A YUKATA
Whaaaat?
Hello? Mika! Where are you?
What?! You're eating takoyaki?!
IT'S ALSO BECAUSE SHE CAN BE HONEST WITH HER FEELINGS,
AND BY DOING SO, EVEN THOUGH SHE'S BEEN HURT AND REJECTED,
SHE HAS THE STRENGTH TO FACE THOSE FEELINGS. THAT STRENGTH MAKES HER CUTE
GWWWCH!

BUT,
I...
NO! PINK IS MINE! I'M THE BIG SISTER!
RIKA WANTS PINK, TOO!
Wahhhh!
STUPID BIG SIS!!


YUKI,
WILL YOU HOLD HANDS WITH GRANDMA?
REALLY HATE
FACING THEM.

I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WOULD BE FINE THAT WAY.
OKAY.

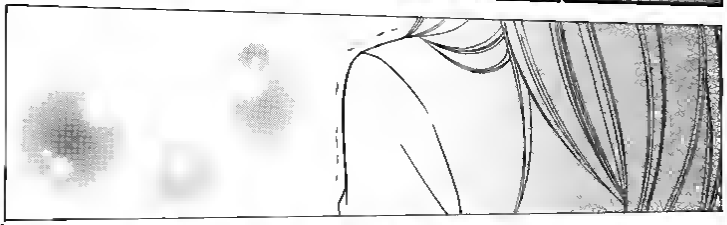
SFX: GOOM
YUKI...
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF ALL THIS?
.....
MAY WE HAVE AN EXPLA-NATION...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US THAT NARUSE CONFESSED TO YOU?!
Shouji-senpai and Yashiro-senpai!
Ah!
Ya, Alice!
WE'RE YOUR BEST FRIENDS!!
AND YOU DIDN'T TELL US ANYTHING! NOT EVEN FOR ADVICE!!
How can you be like this!!
I'M SORRY THERE WASN'T REALLY A GOOD TIME TO TELL YOU.
Too busy.
MY BAD, I THOUGHT EVERYONE KNEW, SO IT JUST SLIPPED.
SO?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
ARE YOU GOING OUT? ARE YOU DATING?!
NO, THAT'S..
RUSTLE...
WE'RE NOT GOIN' OUT.

!
...WE'RE NOT GOING OUT.
Wait a-
The real Naruse is here!
So bright.
What kind of game are you playing?!
...
Be quiet, you!!
AHAHA! I FIGURED! WELL, ANYBODY WOULD UNDERSTAND JUST BY LOOKING.
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU PUSH, MANAGER MACHIDA'S IRON WALL WILL NEVER BUDGE!
PUHAHA!
Ahh, serves you right!
YEAH.
THAT'S WHY...
I'M GONNA QUIT.
ガバッ

...EH?
...JUST NOW...
WHAT DID HE...
...I'M GOING TO STOP LIKING YUKI -SENPAI.

WHAA AAT?!
YOU'REJUST GOING TO GIVE UP?! THAT'S SO BORING!
DON'T HAVE THE GUTS, HUH?!
AH, YUKI?
I'M GOING TO THE RESTROOM BEFORE THE FIREWORKS START.
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING, SENPAI.

WHILE I WAS SAYING HALF-BAKED THINGS AND UNFINISHED ANSWERS,
WHILE I WAS FEELING GLOOMY AND NOT PROGRES-SING WITH ANYTHING,
AND WHILE I WAS
ALREADY COME TO AN ANSWER.
I'M GOING TO STOP LIKING YUKI -SENPAI.
HE'S...
FALLING MORE AND MORE IN LOVE WITH HIM...



SFX: SLAP!

EHH...!
OH? GOOD EVE-NING.
YOU CAME TO THE FES-TIVAL, TOO?
ARE...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT...?!
OH, IT FELT LIKE THERE WAS A MOSQUITO ON MY FACE, SO IT WAS ITCHY...
...I'M FINE.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG.
I WAS JUST A LITTLE DIZZY FROM BEING IN A CROWDED AREA, SO I WAS TAKING A BREAK ..

HA...
.....
HOLD ON A...
WHAT'S UP...?
HAKAMADA -KUN...?
LET G...
!
I'M SORRY.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO LET GO.
BOOM!

IMPATIENT SCANS
WWW FACEBOOK COM/IMPATIENTSCANS

RAWS: NIPPON
TRANSLATOR: PLUMJUCIE
CLEANERS: XO, NOIRHALO,, MGX
REORAWERS: NOIRHALO, SHAOOWSLAYER
EOIT/QC: SHAOOWSLAYER, PLUMJUCIE

CHAPTER 32

I WISH I HAD NEVER REALIZED IT.
"NOT REALLY THE AMAZING PERSON YOU THINK I AM."
THE OTHER SIDE OF HER THAT HIDES BEHIND HER STRENGTH...
HER WEAK
AND FRAGILE SELF.
"I'M..."
I WISH I HAD NEVER LEARNED ABOUT IT.

IT SHOULDN'T HAVE TURNED OUT LIKE THIS...
I HEARD EVERYTHING.
...JUST NOW,
...KUN...?
HAKA-MADA...
.....
HA...
!

I'M GOING TO STOP LIKING YUKI-SENPAI
WHY DON'T YOU EVER SAY "I'M TIRED" WHEN YOU'RE REALLY TIRED?
WHY...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SO TOUGH ON YOU, YOU JUST GRIT YOUR TEETH, CLENCH YOUR FISTS, AND BEAR WITH IT.
WHO'S GOING TO BE THE ONE TO TELL YOU, "IT'S ALRIGHT, YOU CAN RELAX NOW..."
YOU JUST TELL YOURSELF, "DO YOUR BEST, DO YOUR BEST," BUT...
DON'T YOU GET IT? IT'LL NEVER END THAT WAY!
I KNEW IT...

I KNEW IT ALL FROM THE START.
HE AND I ARE EXACT OPPOSITES OF EACH OTHER.
HEY YUKI -SENPAI,
DON'T YOU THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD A WEIRD CHIP IMPLANTED IN YOU BY ALIENS?
EVEN SO, I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER SOMEHOW
I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD MEET HALFWAY IF I TRIED HARDER.
BUT...
"YUKI."
"YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUSH YOURSELF, OKAY?"
...THERE'S NO LONGER
ANY REASON TO TRY ANYMORE...

GRANDMA...
!!?
GRAND..!
"GRANDMA"...?!
"GRANDMOTHER?!"
Where?!
AH...
GEEZ, WHAT AM I SAYING...
SORRY, THAT'S NOT IT.
I WAS JUST REMEMBERING SOMETHING.
...I FEEL A BIT TIRED...

VIBRATE...
OH...
It's my phone.
BEEP!
HELLO?
HEYY, YUKI?!
THE FIREWORKS HAVE STARTED ALREADY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SORRY, I'LL BE COMING BACK NOW
...MACHIDA -SAN!
...DOES IT REALLY HAVE TO BE HIM?

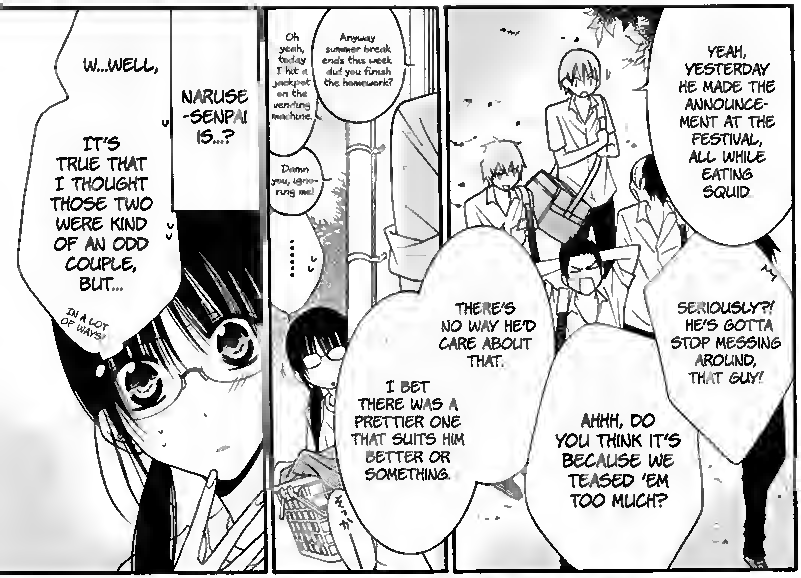
WHAT?!
.....
I SAAAID,
NARUSE IS GOING TO GIVE UP ON MANAGER MACHIDA!!
WHAT?! WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?! WHY?!
...HE IS?
..SHUT UP, IT'S NOT LIKE IT MATTERS, RIGHT?
ANYWAY, DON'T BOTHER HER WITH ALL YOUR JABBERING ANYMORE.
Ehhh, that's no fun!
I really like Machida-sempai!
He lies!

2
NAME
THE CREATION OF THE NAME HAS BEEN TAKING FOREVER...
MY SLOWNESS HAS BEEN MY MOST WORRYING PROBLEM AS OF LATE...OR ACTUALLY FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS. OR ACTUALLY EVEN SINCE BEFORE I MADE A DEBUT
THERE ARE AUTHORS THAT CAN WRITE 30 PAGES IN CHAPTER'S WORTH IN JUST A FEW DAYS. BUT IT CAN TAKE ME MANY MORE DAYS. I AM SORRY!!
MENTAL IMAGE
"HUMMM"
BUT YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT! EVER SINCE THIS STERILIZATION STARTED, YOU'VE SAID IT MULTIPLE TIMES!
HUMMM
HUMM AND SAY SOME THING INTENSE TAKE!!
IT'S A VERY ORDINARY AND PLAIN ROMCOM. BUT THIS IDEA OF MAKING PEOPLE GO "KYUN" IS SO DIFFICULT. I WISH I COULD JUST GET SOME THING LIKE A "KYUN BAZOOKA" AND SHOOT IT AT EVERYONE TO MAKE THEIR HEARTS ALL GO KYUN! IT'D BE SO USEFUL!
IT'D BE GOOD IF NARUSE HAD THAT ALL THE TIME TOO
BUT YOU CAN STILL MAKE A HEART FLUTTER WITH MONCHALANT ACTIONS AND WORDS. SO IT SHOWS THAT THE IDEA OF "KYUN" GOES PRETTY DEEP.
THE NAME MIGHT TAKE FOREVER BUT DRAWING A ROMCOM IS VERY FUN
ONEE -CHAAAA AAAN!!
Welcome back
I'LL DISINFECT IT FOR YOU, SO GO TAKE OFF YOUR YUKATA AND TAKE A BATH
MY GETA SHOE BROOOKE, MY FOOT HUUUURTS!
IT CUT INTO MY SKIN!
"DOES IT REALLY HAVE TO BE HIM?"
WHAT IN THE WORLD.
Isn't it kinda hot in the house?
"MACHIDA -SAN!"

"BUT I DON'T WANT TO LET GO."
BUT...
"I'M SORRY.."
.....
WAS GOING ON WITH HAKAMADA -KUN TODAY?
THE FIREWORKS WERE SO LOUD THAT I MISSED WHAT HE SAID,
AND HE DIDN'T REPEAT IT FOR ME
NOTHING, NEVERMIND!!
WHAT WAS THAT?
MAYBE AND JUST MAYBE, I DON'T BELIEVE IT, BUT...
MAYBE HAKAMADA-KUN... ABOUT ME ?
N NAH I'M PROBABLY JUST BEING SELF CONSCIOUS
IT'S LIKE THAT ONE TIME WHERE I THOUGHT I WAS BEING CONFESSED TO BUT IT WAS ACTUALLY MY MISUNDERSTANDING SO
MY HEAD IS ALL CONFUSED AND MIXED UP.
VIBRATE!
VIBRATE!
INCOMING CALL
MARUSE SHOU
!
I JUST WANT TO FOCUS ON CLUB AND STUDIES..
EVEN THOUGH RIGHT NOW

I'M GOING TO STOP LIKING YUKI-SENPAI.
BUT HASN'T HE ALREADY SAID IT ALL?
HE HAS SOMETHING HE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT.
"OH WELL, I'LL CALL YOU ON THE PHONE LATER."
"I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING, SENPAI."
VIBRATE...
...WHAT DOES HE WANT..
VIBRATE...
.....
VIBRATE...
VIBRATE...
VIBRATE...
...!
VIBRATE
VIBRATE
VIBRATE
VIBRATE...
ALL WHILE EATING THAT SQUID.

THE ONE WHO ASKED TO "WAIT 3 MONTHS,"
WAS ME.
SO IF NARUSE SAYS HE'S GOING TO QUIT BECAUSE OF THAT,
THEN THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO TALK ABOUT.
I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING ANYMORE.
I DON'T WANT TO LISTEN TO ANYTHING.
EH?!
NARUSE'S GIVING UP ON MACHI-DA?!


YEAH, YESTERDAY HE MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE FESTIVAL, ALL WHILE EATING SQUID
SERIOUSLY?! HE'S GOTTA STOP MESSING AROUND, THAT GUY!
AHHH, DO YOU THINK IT'S BECAUSE WE TEASED 'EM TOO MUCH?
THERE'S NO WAY HE'D CARE ABOUT THAT.
I BET THERE WAS A PRETTIER ONE THAT SUITS HIM BETTER OR SOMETHING.
Anyway summer break ends this week, did you finish the homework?
Oh yeah, today I hit a jackpot on the vending machine.
Damn you, ignoring me!
NARUSE -SENPAI IS...?
W...WELL,
IT'S TRUE THAT I THOUGHT THOSE TWO WERE KIND OF AN ODD COUPLE, BUT...
IN A LOT OF WAYS!

BUT...
BECAUSE I SERIOUSLY LIKE YUKI -SENPAI!
I DON'T THINK
HE WOULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT SO CASUALLY...
YUKI -SENPAI.

WHY DIDN'T YOU PICK UP THE PHONE YESTERDAY?
I WAS SLEEPING.
...BUT I CALLED DURING THE FIREWORKS TOO.
RIGHT. I DIDN'T NOTICE.
WERE YOU WITH SOMEONE?
A FRIEND.
ONLY?
...THIS GUY...!
WHY IS HE SO CALM AND JABBERING AWAY AT ME.
YOU'RE SO ANNOYING, IT WAS HAKAMA...!
HAKAMA?
HAKAMADA?
SFX: ANGRY, IRRITATED

HAKA-MADA SHIZUKA?
OH NO...!!
NOW THAT I SLIPPED AND SAID "HAKAMA," THERE'S NO WAY I CAN FOOL HIM ANYMORE!
!?
..NO, WAIT, THAT'S STRANGE
AFTER ALL THIS, WHY SHOULD I BE AFRAID OF TALKING ABOUT HAKAMADA-KUN WITH NARUSE?
.. SENPAI, WERE YOU WITH SHIZUKA?
IT DOESN'T MATTER, DOES IT? IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU
ANYWAY, IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY BUSI-NESS HERE, HURRY AND GO HO...
!

THIS BR...!
WHAT THE HECK ARE... YOU...!
...!
WH...

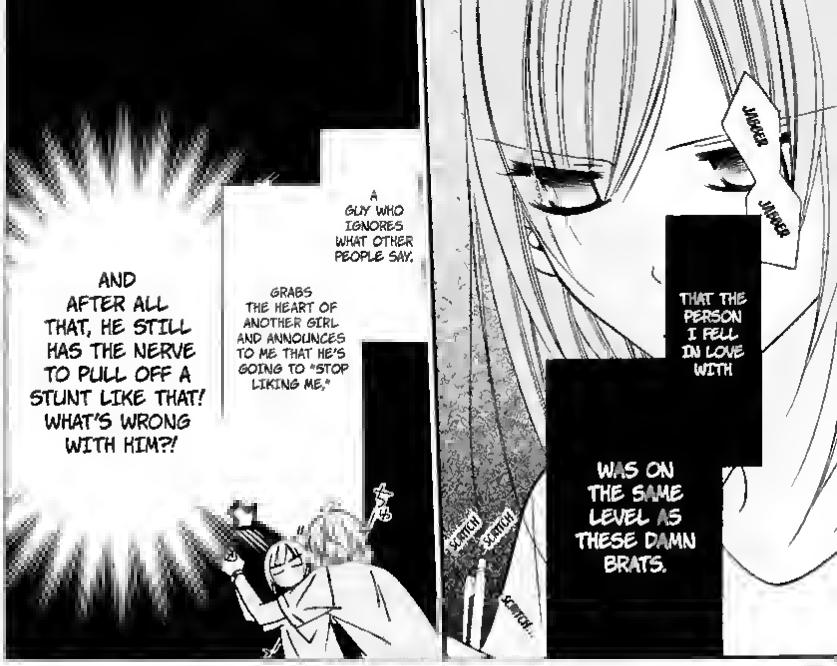
WHAT...
...I SAID THAT "I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING," DIDN'T I?
...I DIDN'T YOU SAY IT ALREADY? ALL WHILE EATING THAT SQUID?
GRUDGE
THAT WASN'T IT, NOW JUST LISTE...
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!!!
...
CLICK
.....

...!
...!
NO, I DON'T WANT TO...!
SENPAI.
...!
N...
LISTEN TO ME.
PLEASE,
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT...
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
GRIT...!
!!!
.....
Damn, that hurt!
...AT...
?
WHAT...
WHAT THE HECK...

WHAT THE HECK DO YOU WANT FROM ME AFTER YOU KISSED ICHII-SAN, YOU...
PLAYBOY!!!
...I DON'T
BEC USE..
WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY ANYMORE.
SQUEAK
IT'S FINE!
...JUST SO YOU KNOW, THAT WAS...
...YOU SAW THAT?
Both of them?
I DIDN'T SEE THE MAIN PART, BUT I SAW THE KISS!

"LISTEN TO ME!"
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT.
"THAT WAS JUST SOMETHING I FORCED ON HIM ANYWAY."
ICHII-SAN DID SAY THAT,
BUT THEN WHY DIDN'T NARUSE TELL ME ANYTHING?
BECAUSE...
"I DON'T MIND~."
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT HE'S CHOSEN THAT GIRL...
SEEMS LIKE IT? IF OU'RE GONNA GO FOR HIM, NOW'S THE BEST TIME, ISN'T IT ARISA?
DID NARUSE SERIOUSLY GIVE UP ON MACHIDA -SENPAI?
Ha!
YOU GUYS AREN'T TOO BRIGHT, ARE YOU?
WHAT?!
HEY, THIS IS OFF-TOPIC BUT—
And with the strength of our spirits
THIS IS BAD, THE OPENING CEREMONY IS MONDAY BUT WE HAVE SO MUCH HOME-WORK LEFT.
IT NEVER ENDS!!
AHHHHH HHHH!

...IT MEANS THAT HE'S CHANGED.
SAYING SOMETHING LIKE "ANYWAY, I'M GOING TO STOP LIKING HER, SO DON'T BOTHER HER WITH ALL YOUR JABBERING ANYMORE."
THAT CAN'T BE TAKEN AS ANYTHING BUT ANOTHER CONFESSION.
Eh?
REALLY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AH!
ONCE MORE,
I REALIZED...
UM,
MORE IMPORTANTLY, I DON'T THINK WE HAVE ANYMORE CUPS.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PUT THE ICE IN!
YOU DUMBASS!
WHO THE HELL TRIES TO CRAM CHOPPED ICE INTO A GLASS CUP?!


AND AFTER ALL THAT, HE STILL HAS THE NERVE TO PULL OFF A STUNT LIKE THAT! WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?!
GRABS THE HEART OF ANOTHER GIRL AND ANNOUNCES TO ME THAT HE'S GOING TO "STOP LIKING ME,"
A GUY WHO IGNORES WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY.
SCRATCH! SCRATCH! SCRATCH...
WAS ON THE SAME LEVEL AS THESE DAMN BRATS.
THAT THE PERSON I FELL IN LOVE WITH
JAGGER JAGGER

SENPAI, PLEASE,
LISTEN TO ME.
.....

...AND THEN THERE'S ME WHOSE HEART WAS SET AFLUTTER BECAUSE OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME...
AGH MY FOCUS IS GONE AGAIN..

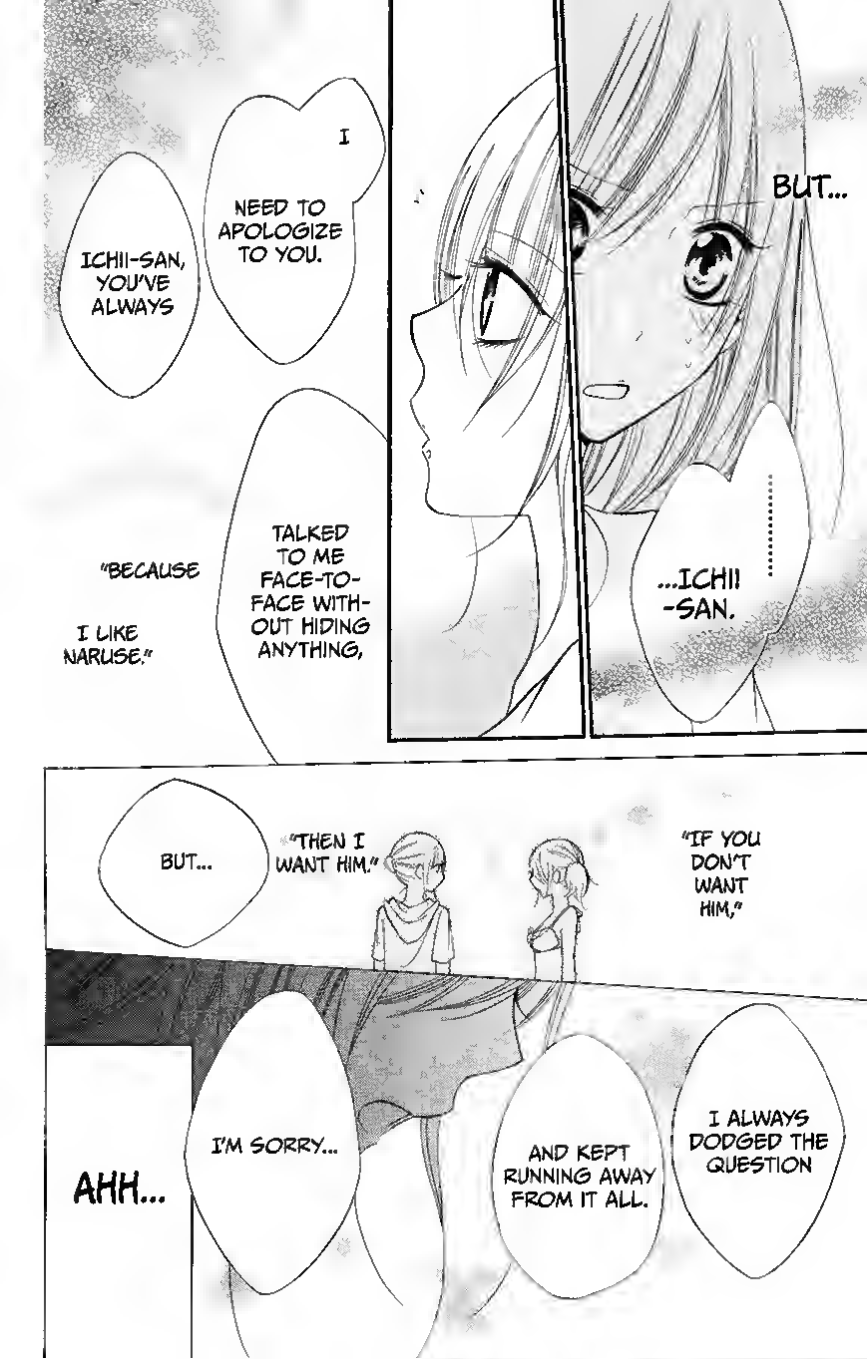
!
WH... WHAT?
WE BROKE A CUP, SO WE'RE GOING TO GO BUY ONE MO...
HM?
YUK
.....
GUKK!
NEE -CHAAAAN!
IT...IT'S NO GOOD, THIS CUP ALSO INFURIATES ME, SO I'D BETTER PUT IT AWAY!
AH!
THERE'S A NICE ONE RIGHT HERE!
LET ME BORROW THIS FOR A...
HA

YOU CAN'T!!
YOU CAN'T,
NOT THIS ONE.
...YO...
"ONEEEE-CHAAAAN!"

IT'S SOMETHING THAT I WOULD WHINE AND YELL ABOUT TO HAVE.
I'VE NEVER HAD SOMETHING LIKE THAT UP UNTIL NOW.
YAAAY!
BEAR.
IT'S NOT LIKE...
RIN ACTUALLY WANTS THE BEAR INSTEAD,
TRADE WITH MEEE.
REAL-LY?!
ALRIGHT, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.
SORRY, I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT.
WHAT?
OH, ALSO!
IF YOU TOUCH THAT CUP,
I'LL BEAT YOU UP!
BUT...
!?

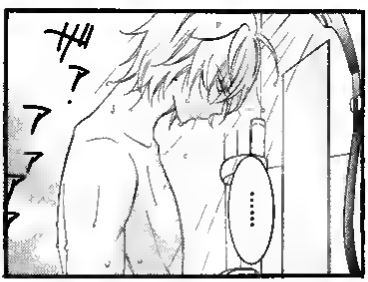
ONLY HIM...
BUT...
11
THAT GUY...

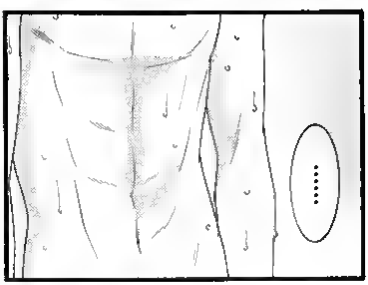
...WHAT'S UP? YOU'RE OUT WITHOUT ANY BAGS.
!
MACHIDA -SENPAI?
NOW I CAN'T REACH...
SHOOT, I RUSHED AND LEFT WITH-OUT MY CELL PHONE AGAIN..
ICHII-SAN...
I THINK HE'S OUT SOMEWHERE WITH ABE AND THE REST DOING HOMEWORK.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR NARUSE,
THIS GIRL MIGHT BE THE ONLY ONE
IN NARUSE'S HEART NOW.
AND I MIGHT
NOT BE ABLE TO REACH HIM ANYMORE.

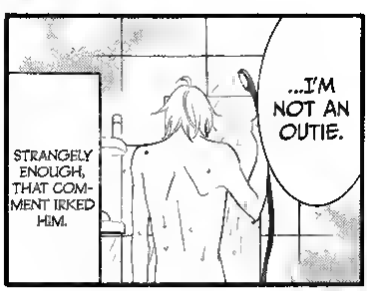

BUT...
...ICHII-SAN.
I NEED TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU.
ICHII-SAN, YOU'VE ALWAYS
TALKED TO ME FACE-TO-FACE WITHOUT HIDING ANYTHING,
"BECAUSE I LIKE NARUSE."
"IF YOU DON'T WANT HIM,"
"THEN I WANT HIM."
BUT...
I ALWAYS DODGED THE QUESTION
AND KEPT RUNNING AWAY FROM IT ALL.
I'M SORRY...
AHH...

MY HEART IS POUNDING.
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE HIM TO YOU!
BECAUSE I REALLY DO NEED HIM,
AND I WANT HIM TOO!
EVEN THE TIPS OF MY FINGERS...

AND GETTING HURT...
FACING MY FEELINGS HEAD ON,
IT'S LIKE THE MOMENT RIGHT BEFORE A MATCH.
ARE SHAKING FROM NERVOUSNESS.
I'M NOT AFRAID OF EITHER OF THOSE THINGS ANYMORE.
TO SEE NARUSE.
I WANT







TRANSLATION NOTE FOR THIS OMAKE:

EARLIER IN THE CHAPTER, YUKI CALLED NARUSE A "PLAYBOY." IN JAPANESE, THE TERM USED WAS "DEBESO," WHICH TYPICALLY MEANS, A PERSON WITH AN OUTIE BELLY BUTTON. WHEN IT'S USED TO DESCRIBE A PERSON, IT IS A NEGATIVE PHRASE THAT MEANS THEY CAN'T SIT STILL, THEY HAVE TO GO OUT A LOT, OR THEY "GET AROUND." BECAUSE IT WAS USUALLY TO DESCRIBE FLIRTY WOMEN, SADLY I'M INCLINED TO THINK IT COMES FROM WHEN PREGNANT WOMEN GET OUTIE BELLY BUTTONS. BUT I'M NOT SURE. :(

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TRANSLATOR: PLUMJUCIE
CLEANER: TSUNGIHORN, NOIRHALO
REDRAWERS: TSUNGIHORN, NOIRHALO
TYPESETTER: NEKOMANCER
QC/EDITING: PLUMJUCIE, SHADOWSLAYER

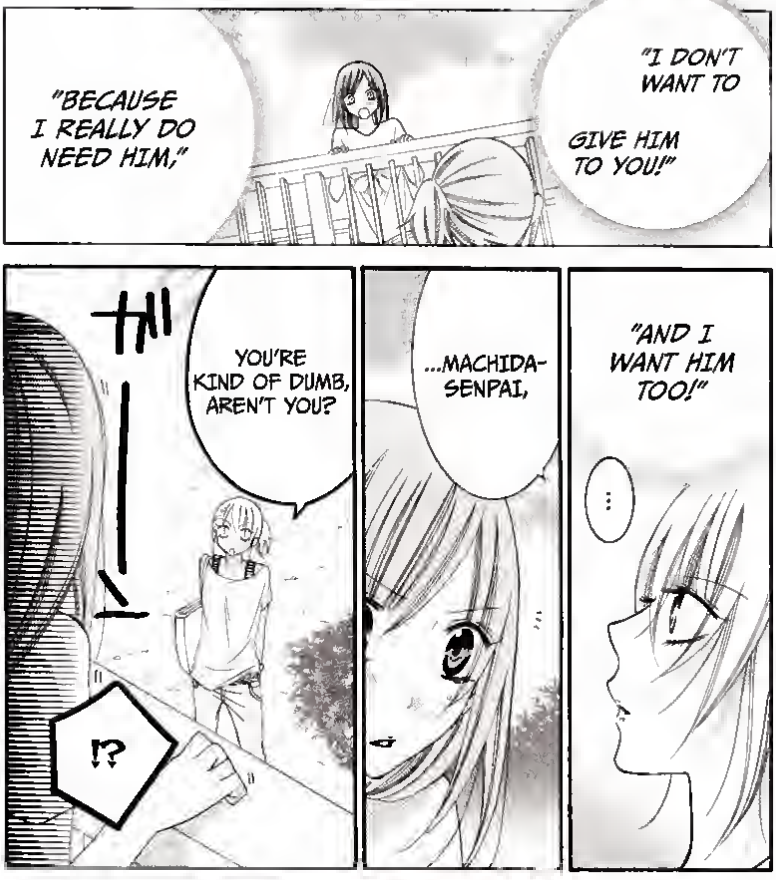
HOLY CRAP, NAMAIKI FANS ARE ANIMALS. WE DON'T GET ANYTHING FROM YONA OR SKIP BEAT FANS, NO APPLICANTS, NO COMPLAINTS THAT WE'RE SLOW. BUT WE GET TEN BILLION REQUESTS AND APPLICANTS FROM NAMAIKI FANS.

SEE THE NEXT CHAPTER'S CREDITS FOR SCANLATION APPLICANT NEWS.

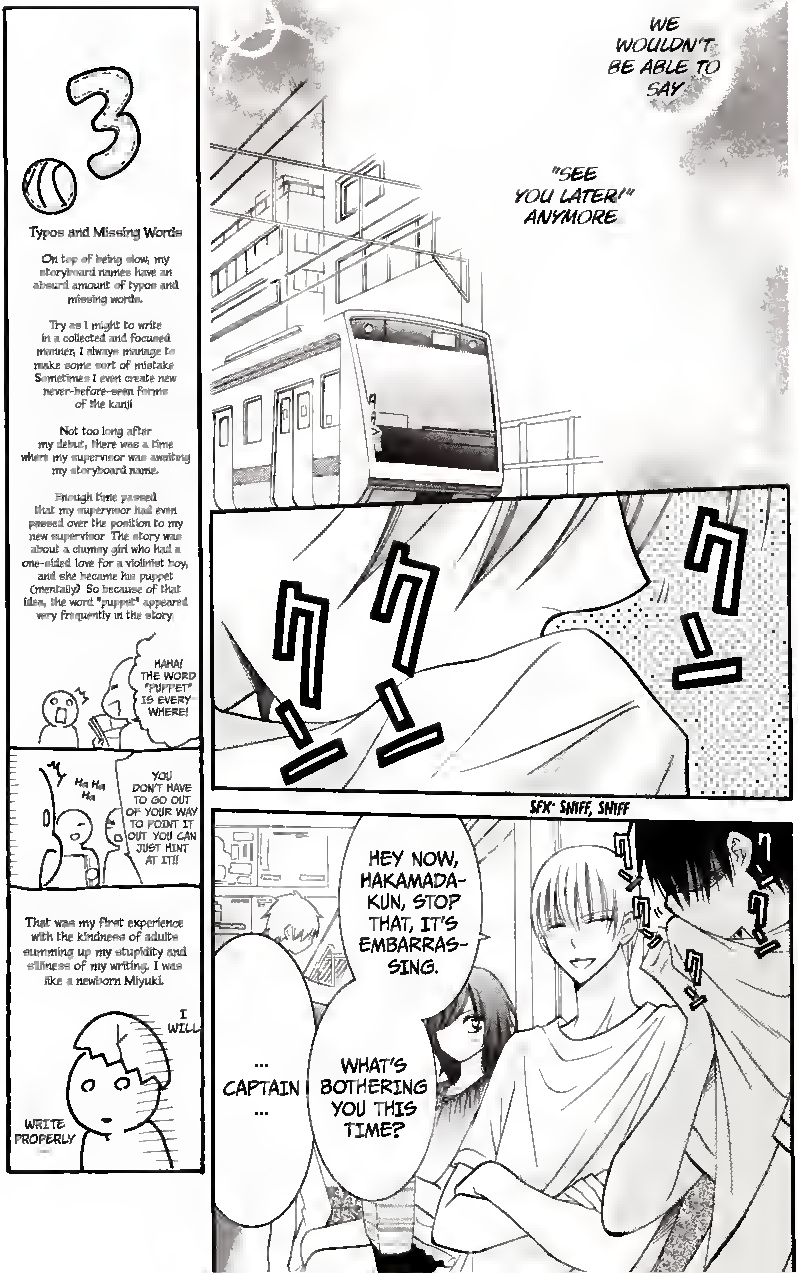
RYUHOKU
11

CHAPTER 33

NAMAIKIZAKARI。


"BECAUSE I REALLY DO NEED HIM,"
"I DON'T WANT TO GIVE HIM TO YOU!"
YOU'RE KIND OF DUMB, AREN'T YOU?
!?
...MACHIDA-SENPAI,
"AND I WANT HIM TOO!"
...

"HEY, HEY..."
...THE ONE WHO KEPT DODGING AND RUNNING
WAS REALLY ME.
"WHAT IF I SAID I LIKED YOU NARUSE? WHAT WOULD YOU DO?"
"TRY CLOSING YOUR EYES."
"...YOU CAN THINK OF ME AS MACHIDA-SENPAI IF YOU WANT."
IF I HONESTLY TOLD HIM EVERY-THING,
WE PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BE FRIENDS ANYMORE

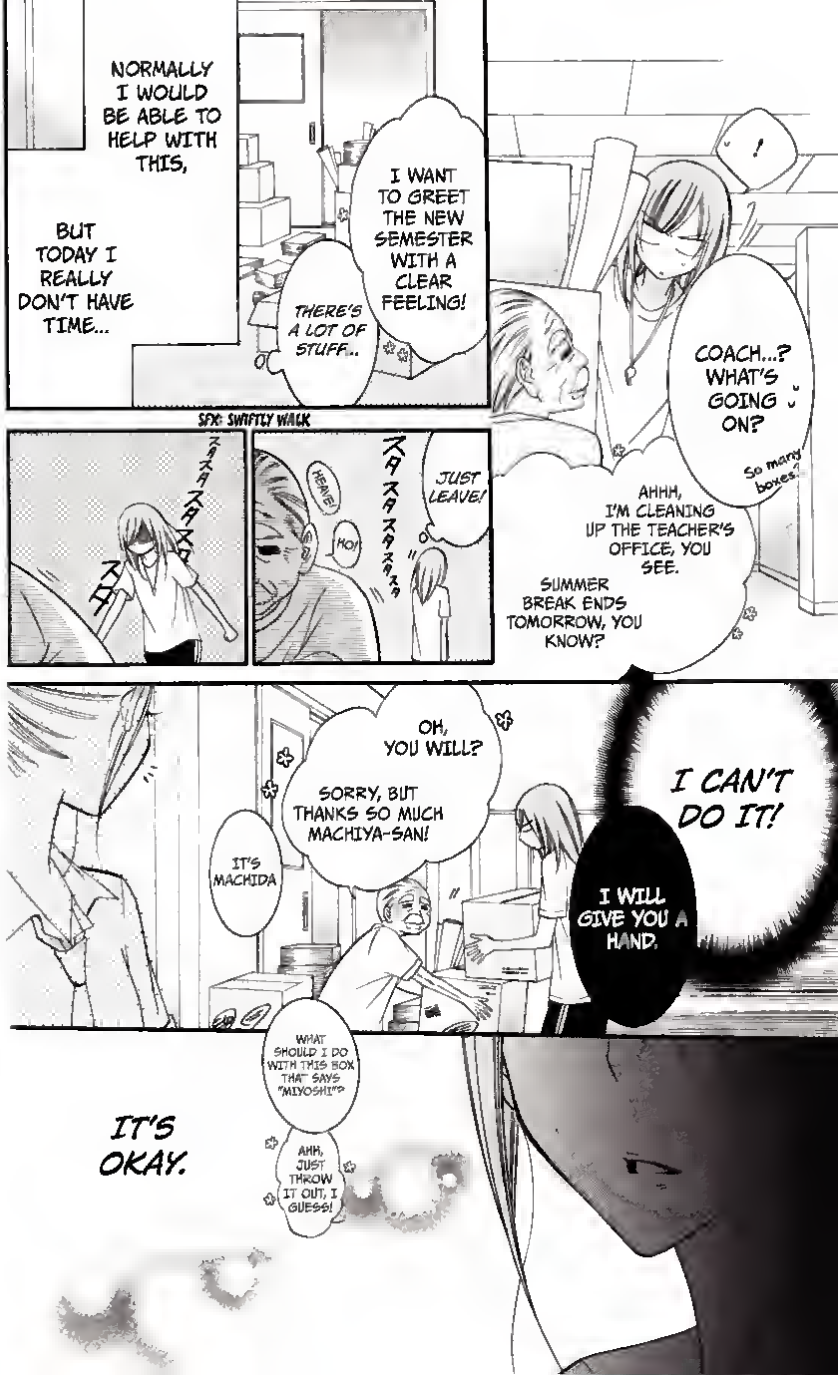

3
Typos and Missing Words
On top of being slow, my storyboard panels have an absurd amount of typos and missing words.
Try as I might to write in a collected and focused manner, I always manage to make some sort of mistake. Sometimes I even create new never-before-seen forms of the kanji.
Not too long after my debut, there was a time when my supervisor was awaiting my storyboard name.
Enough time passed that my supervisor had even passed over the position to my new supervisor. The story was about a clumsy girl who had a one-sided love for a violinist boy, and she became his puppet (mentally). So because of that idea, the word "puppet" appeared very frequently in the story.
HAHA! THE WORD "PUPPET" IS EVERY WHERE!
Ha Ha Ha
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO POINT IT OUT. YOU CAN JUST MINT AT IT!!
That was my first experience with the kindness of adults summing up my stupidity and silliness of my writing. I was like a newborn Miyuki.
I WILL
WRITE PROPERLY
WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SAY
"SEE YOU LATER!" ANYMORE
SFX: SNIFF, SNIFF
HEY NOW, HAKAMADA-KUN, STOP THAT, IT'S EMBARRAS-SING.
... CAPTAIN ...
WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU THIS TIME?

I DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
DO I SMELL LIKE A GRANDMA?
"MACHIDA-SAN..."
I CAN'T BELIEVE_
WHO THE HECK GAVE YOU THAT IDEA?
CAPTAIN.
WHAT'S UP? GETTING HORNY?
Rattle...
NO.
WOULD YOU PRACTICE WITH ME A BIT LONGER?
AS SOON AS THE SECOND SEMESTER STARTS, THE WINTER CUP PRELIMINARIES WILL BE HERE SOON TOO.
I DIDN'T HAVE TO GO AND ASK THAT.
I ALREADY KNEW THE ANSWER...
"DOES IT REALLY HAVE TO BE HIM?"
I'M SO STUPID ...

Clack!
I ENDED UP NOT MEETING WITH NARUSE...
BUT WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED IF HE WAS DOING HIS HOME-WORK.
BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A CONVERSATION THAT WE COULD HAVE OVER THE PHONE OR LIME...
...
YUK
KA
TOMORROW, I'LL MAKE SURE TO TALK TO HIM PROPERLY.
I'LL LISTEN TO THE THINGS I COULDN'T LISTEN TO
AND SAY THE THINGS I WASN'T ABLE TO.
WE CAN'T
TAKE A LOSS AGAIN.

TOMORROW WILL BE THE DAY
THAT I TALK TO NARUSE.
OI, NARUSE!!
IF YOU'RE DONE CHANGING, LET'S HURRY UP AND GO!
IF WE'RE LATE, TONO-SENPAI'S GOING TO UNLEASH HIS IRON CLAW ON ME!!
THAT'S NICE.
IT'S NOT NICE AT ALL!
Did you even hear what I said?!
I'M HEADING OUT NOW, BUT YOU HURRY AND COME TOO, OKAY?!
YUKI-SENPAI
Seen
I want to talk to you about something today, so come to my classroom after club
AND SO...

TOMORROW WE WON'T HAVE ANY PRACTICE BUT THE DAY AFTER, WE'LL HAVE AFTERNOON PRACTICE AFTER THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY
THE NEXT PRACTICE WILL BE THE FIRST ONE OF THE NEW SEMESTER, SO YOU'D BETTER COME READY AND RARING TO GO!
Good work!
I'm hungry!
.....
...ALRIGHT.
NARUSE.
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE GOING TO CHOOSE ICHII-SAN, BUT I LIKE YOU TOO.
IT...
IT'S PERFECT.
I WON'T GET SCARED AND RUN AWAY ANYMORE...
FIRST, I'LL CAPTURE AND SECURE NARUSE AFTER HE'S DONE GETTING CHANGED.
THEN, IN A COOL AND CALM MANNER, I WILL EXPRESS MY FEELINGS TO HIM!
SFX above: Yes, sir!
!
WHOOPS!
SFX: Bump!
Tremble
Tremble
!!?
OH MY, I'M SORRY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?


NORMALLY I WOULD BE ABLE TO HELP WITH THIS,
BUT TODAY I REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME...
I WANT TO GREET THE NEW SEMESTER WITH A CLEAR FEELING!
THERE'S A LOT OF STUFF...
!
COACH...? WHAT'S GOING ON?
So many boxes...
AHHH, I'M CLEANING UP THE TEACHER'S OFFICE, YOU SEE.
SUMMER BREAK ENDS TOMORROW, YOU KNOW?
SFX: SWIFTLY WALK
スタスタスタスタ
スタ
スタスタスタスタ
HEHE!
HOH
JUST LEAVE!
I CAN'T DO IT!
I WILL GIVE YOU A HAND.
OH, YOU WILL?
SORRY, BUT THANKS SO MUCH MACHIYA-SAN!
IT'S MACHIDA
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THIS BOX THAT SAYS "MIYOSHI"?
AHH, JUST THROW IT OUT, I GUESS!
IT'S OKAY.

I WILL DEFINITELY MAKE IT ON TIME.
YUKI-SENPAI
Rattle!
!
...OH, IT'S JUST YOU.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!
DON'T JUST BLATANTLY SHOW YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT!
THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY ISN'T UNTIL THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, YOU KNOW.
I KNOW THAT.
I CAME BECAUSE I HAD SOMETHING I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
TALK?
YEAH.

I ALWAYS...
HAD SOMETHING THAT I KEPT AVOIDING AND COULDN'T SAY TO YOU...
.....
Vibrate!
!
HOLD ON A SEC.
...OH, IT'S JUST ABE.
AT LEAST TRY TO HIDE THAT DISAPPOINT-MENT, WILL YA?!
...ARE YOU WAITING FOR SOME-ONE?
NAH.
Clatter...
I DID CALL THE PERSON OUT, BUT THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE SEEN THE MESSAGE YET.
SO THEY MIGHT HAVE GONE HOME ALREADY.
Oh, well.

IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MACHIDA-SENPAI, THEN SHE WAS OVER AT THE GYM INSTRUCTOR'S ROOM
!
SHOULDN'T YOU HURRY?
SHE SEEMS LIKE THE TYPE TO HURRY HOME WITHOUT BOTHERING TO CHECK LIME BEFORE SHE LEAVES.
.....
.....
...ICHII.
YOU LIKED ME...
RIGHT?

ドクン…
……
IF I DID…
THEN WHAT ABOUT 冂…
IF SO,
ドクン…
ドクン…
SFX: THUMP, THUMP
THEN I'M SORRY FOR NOT HEARING YOU OUT PROPERLY
NARUSE HAS
CHANGED.
UP UNTIL NOW.

HE HAS DEFINITELY CHANGED.
AND NOT BECAUSE OF ME
OR BECAUSE OF ANYONE ELSE,
BUT BECAUSE OF THAT PERSON.
...
...WHAT AN IDIOT...
...
DON'T GO TELLING ME SUCH A CREEPY JOKE!

...SEE YOU LATER.
RATTLE...
CLACK...
"SEE YOU LATER."
カリラ
OI, NARUSE!
WHY DID YOU IGNORE ME EVEN THOUGH YOU SAW MY MESSAGE ON LIME...

YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO STAY IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE.
HURTING OTHERS,
GETTING HURT,
BUTTING HEADS WITH OTHERS AND FALLING DOWN...
WHOAAA!
EH?! ICHII-SAN?!
EH?! ARE YOU CRYING?!
YOU FREAKIN' SCARED ME!
I'M NOT CRYING, YOU DUMB BALDIE, TREAT ME TO GYUDON!
IT'S 6 O'CLOCK!
IT TOOK A WHILE, BUT I THINK NARUSE SHOULD STILL BE HANGING AROUND THE STATION...
IF YOU KEEP GETTING AFRAID AND CAUGHT UP WITH ALL OF THOSE THINGS,
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND.
YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE
MMPH!

TO TELL SOMEONE
THAT YOU LOVE THEM.
.....!
NARUSE...
WHY DIDN'T YOU CHECK YOUR CELL PHONE, STUPID?
WHAT?!
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD MESS AROUND WITH MY CELL PHONE DURING PRACTICE, WHAT ARE YOU TALK...
N...
NO! WRONG!

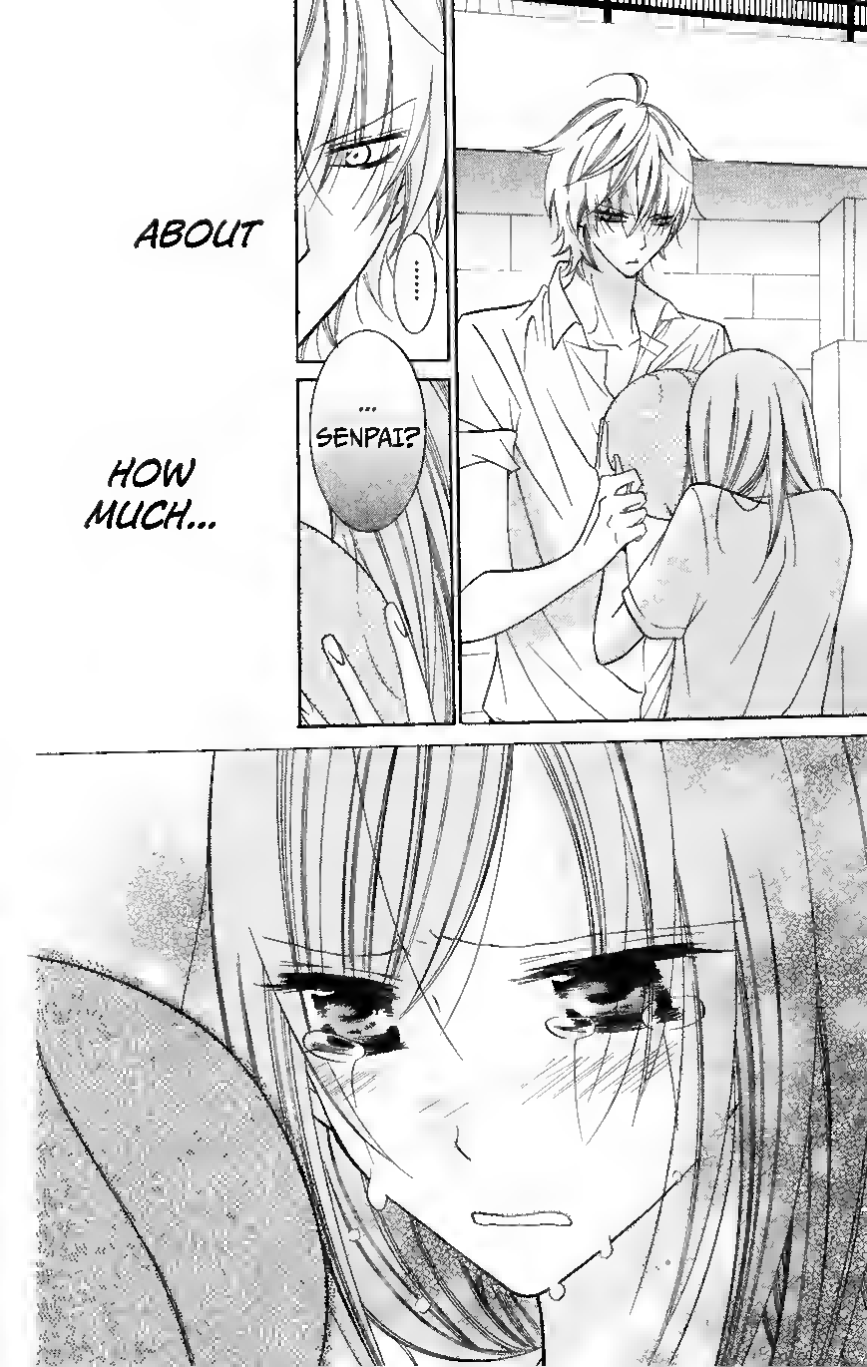
EVERY-THING IN ORDER, STEP BY STEP..
S...SO, I JUST WANT TO SAY...
YEAH?
WHAT I WANT TO SAY IS...!
CALM DOWN.
I ALSO, HAD SOME-THING I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT.
...WHAT IS IT?
YES, JUST LIKE THAT.
CALM AND COOL...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I CAME HERE TO SAY!
I MEAN, ANY-WAY...
I ALREADY PLANNED OUT WHAT I WANTED TO SAY, DIDN'T I?!
WOULDN'T IT BETTER IF YOU KEPT ON LIKING ME?
THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING.

THAT WAS WRONG.
.....
I MESSED UP!
WH.. WHY DID IT BECOME SO ARRO-GANT?!
SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY THAT JUST NOW.
SENPAI.
SORRY, COULD YOU COME TO THE SHOE LOCKERS IN ABOUT 20 MINUTES?
DON'T WORRY, I'M TOTALLY CALM RIGHT NOW!
SENPAI.
WHILE I'M CLEANING UP THE GYM, I'LL REORGANIZE MY THOUGHTS, AND THEN I'LL COME BACK!
ANYWAY, JUST GIVE ME A MOMENT TO...
SENPAI!

BECAUSE...
YOU...
...BECAUSE...
...WHY WON'T YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY?
YOU'RE GOING TO SAY THAT YOU LIKE ICHII-SAN, AREN'T YOU?
YOU STOPPED LIKING ME...
AND YOU DECIDED TO GO OUT WITH ICHII-SAN, RIGHT?
I...
I CAN'T JUST LISTEN TO THAT WITH-OUT PREPARING MYSELF!
I KNOW, I'M THE ONE WHO ASKED
I KNOW THAT IT'S MY OWN FAULT.
TO WAIT THREE MONTHS.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY I COULD SAY IT...

SOMETHING LIKE THAT
...THAT I STILL WANT YOU TO LIKE ME...
.....
...!
THERE'S NO WAY THAT I COULD SAY THAT!!
...SENPAI.
SHUT UP! DON'T COME OVER HERE!!

...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
YOU DON'T KNOW
HOW MUCH COURAGE I'M ALWAYS MUSTERING UP IN ORDER TO COME CLOSE TO YOU...!
HOW MUCH COURAGE I NEED TO GATHER IN ORDER TO EVEN TALK TO YOU...!
YOU'VE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT THAT!
ABOUT
HOW MUCH I...


ABOUT
HOW MUCH...
.....
... SENPAI?

HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU...
YOU PROBABLY COULDN'T EVEN IMAGINE IT...

!?
"WHA-!"
"HOLD ON A...!"
WHAT'S WRONG? COULD IT BE HEATSTROKE...
...WHO SAID...
WHO SAID THAT THEY WERE GOING TO "STOP LIKING"?

YOU DID!
Are you serious?!
...WHAT I ACTUALLY WANTED TO SAY WAS THAT I WAS GOING TO "WAIT THREE MONTHS."
...WHAT?
I TRIED TO CALL YOU SO MANY TIMES AFTER THAT.
AND YOU KNOW,
IF I TOLD YOU THE ACTUAL THING AT THE FESTIVAL,
THEY'D ALL PROBABLY YELL AND MAKE IT A BIG DEAL AGAIN FOR THE ENTIRE THREE MONTHS.
Only 2 more months! Only 2 more months!
YOU'D BLOW YOUR FUSE ALL BY YOURSELF AGAIN LIKE AN IDIOT.
AND THEN,
IF A CLUB MEMBER GOT HURT AGAIN, YOU'D BLAME YOURSELF AND START SAYING THINGS THAT MAKE NO SENSE AGAIN.
...!
"BECAUSE IT'S MY FAULT."

FOR MY SAKE...?
THAT'S WHY, IF YOU REALLY WANTED IT,
I WAS READY TO WAIT 3 MONTHS, OR EVEN HALF A YEAR.
IT WAS ALL...
THEN...
"I'VE JUST BEEN THINKING WAY TOO MUCH ABOUT YOU..."
...I DON'T WANT YOU SEE YOU MAKE THAT FACE ANYMORE, YUKI-SENPAI.
...BUT...
!

NOW THAT YOU TOLD ME YOU "LOVE" ME,
I DON'T THINK I CAN WAIT 3 SECONDS, LET ALONE 3 MONTHS...
I REALLY...

LOVE NARUSE'S BIG HANDS...
...SENPAI, SAY IT AGAIN.
I LOVE YOU.
MORE.
I'M NOT SAYING IT ANYMORE.
AND WHEN NARUSE ...
Brush.
!
...YUKI-SENPAI,
CAN I BE YOUR BOYFRIEND...?

EVEN THOUGH YOU SAID YOU'D EVEN WAIT HALF A YEAR.
BUT I BET YOU CAN'T WAIT ANYMORE EITHER, CAN YOU SENPAI?
...!
CALLS MY NAME,
I LOVE IT.
HIS HAIR IS LIGHT AND FLUFFY,
I LOVE IT.
HIS SLEEPING FACE IS SMALL AND CUTE LIKE A CHILD'S.
UNRULY, AND LIKE A CAT'S FUR. I LOVE IT.
OR DO I REALLY HAVE TO WAIT 3 MONTHS...?
...!
HEY, CAN I...?
.....
AND ALSO...
BROWN EYES THAT ALWAYS GAZE STRAIGHT AT ME.
HIS CLEAR UNYIELDING

MM!
...CAN I?
3rd Time
.....
I LOVE THEM SO MUCH THAT
...YOU...
I DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO HAVE THEM.
...CAN.

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TRANSLATOR: PLUMJUCIE
CLEANERS: MINMON, NOIRHALO
REDRAWERS: KUROPE, NOIRHALO
TYPESETTER: PLUMJUCIE
QC/EDITING: PLUMJUCIE, SHADOWSLAYER

REGARDING NEW RECRUITS
WE ARE WORKING ON A SYSTEM TO TEACH NEW RECRUITS. IF YOU ARE EXTREMELY EXPERIENCED, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND US AN APPLICATION AND EXAMPLE OF YOUR WORK. BUT IF YOU ARE NEW, WE ARE UNABLE TO TEACH YOU UNTIL OUR SYSTEM IS UP AND RUNNING

TYPESETTING AND REDRAWING REQUIRE SOME TALENT, BUT CAN BE SELF-TAUGHT. GOOGLE SEARCH SOME SCANLATION TUTORIALS

CLEANING A MANGA PAGE (GETTING RID OF GRAININESS AND TURNING IT SHARP AND FLAT BLACK/GRAY/WHITE) REQUIRES TUTORING AND PRACTICE. GOOGLE SEARCH A LITTLE, AND YOU CAN SEE WHAT I MEAN. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON TEACHING

Chapter 34

Chapter 34

DING
DONG
CHATTER
Mommy! Beach a while hasn't it?!
Wow! You're so tan!
DOG
OH!
YUKI! MOOOR-NIIING!

なまいきざかり。

GOOD MORNING.
AW MAN, SUMMER BREAK'S OVER!
AH, BUT I SPENT IT HOLED UP INSIDE THE WHOLE TIME ANYWAY!
DIDN'T WORK A JOB, AND DIDN'T GET A BOYFRIEND!
WHOA! ARE YOU ALRIGHT, YUKI?
I'M FINE, I JUST UNDERESTIMATED THE WIDTH OF MY SHOULDERS.
THAT HAPPENED...
TWO DAYS AGO...
"YUKI-SENPAI."
"CAN I BE YOUR BOYFRIEND...?"
...CAN I?
...!
...YOU... CAN.....
BUT IT'S REALLY HOT, SO LET GO ALREADY!
MAN, THIS IS BAD...
!?

I WAS...
STAB
...I CAN'T STOP SMILING.
MA-CHIDA YUKI,
AT 17 YEARS OLD,
ON THE MUT-TERING
AND SO...
...FOR THAT REASON,
"...LET'S DO OUR BEST TO STRIVE FOR HIGH HOPES!!" THIS 2ND GRADER...
FINALLY ABLE TO SAY YES
TO ONE OF NARUSE'S MANY, MANY CONFES-SIONS.
NO?
WHAT, GETTING SHY?
.. BUT SE-RIOUSLY, IT'S WAY TOO HOT, I'M GOING HOME
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PACK UP THE BALLS?

BUT HE IS YOUNGER THAN ME... AND IT'S NARUSE
IF THE ME FROM ONE YEAR AGO KNEW THIS, I WONDER WHAT KIND OF FACE SHE'D MAKE
HEY! NARUSE, STOP YAWNING! I'LL SPREAD TO ME!
OH... OH NO! I LOOKED AT HIM FOR TOO LONG!
HIDE
HAS FOUND
A BOY-FRIEND.

AHH...
WAVE
WAVE
SQUEEZE
THIS...

SIGN: AIM FOR IT!! WINTER CUP MAKE AN APPEARANCE!

4 LAUGHING TOO MUCH

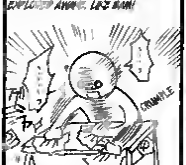
I KNOW THAT LAUGHING A LOT IS CONSIDERED HEALTHY FOR YOUR HEART AND BODY, BUT DO YOU EVER HAVE MOMENTS WHERE IT CAUSES YOU TROUBLE?

FOR EXAMPLE, DO YOU EVER HAVE MOMENTS WHERE YOU'RE IN THE TRAIN OR IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN, AND FOR NO REASON YOU SUDDENLY GET THE URGE TO LAUGH BECAUSE OF SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY? AND THEN YOU TRY TO BITE YOUR LIP OR CONCEAL IT OFF?

OR DO YOU EVER HAVE MOMENTS WHERE YOU'RE TELLING A JOKE, BUT YOU CAN'T HOLD ON UNTIL THE PUNCHLINE AND YOU BURST OUT LAUGHING HALFWAY WITHOUT HAVING CONVEYED THE JOKE TO THE OTHER PERSON?

HERE IS A STORY THAT STILL MAKES ME LAUGH LIKE THOSE EXAMPLES. IN HIGH SCHOOL, THERE WAS A GIRL WHO SAT NEAR ME WHO WAS NOURISHING OFF.

I DIDN'T THINK TOO MUCH OF IT. I JUST THOUGHT, "OH LOOK, SHE'S SLEEPING." BUT THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN SHE EXPLODED AWAKE. LIKE BAM!



AND THEN SHE STARTED FURIOUSLY CRUMPLING AND ROLLING UP THE HANDOUTS ON HER DESK. IT WAS SUCH A MESS!

IT WAS A TOUGH POINT TO HOLD BACK MY LAUGHTER AT THAT HEARTWARMING SIGHT.

目指せ!! ウィンターカップ 出場!!!

THIS FEELS SO AWKWARD.

Whoaaa!
THE WINTER CUP!
It's ALREADY HERE! MAN, THAT WAS QUICK!
THE PRELIMINARIES WILL START AT THE END OF NEXT MONTH.
LET'S DO OUR BEST TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE KANTOU TOURNAMENT AND AIM FOR OUR FIRST APPEARANCE AT THE CUP.
目指せ!!
ウィンターカップ
出場!!!

YUKI-SENPAAAAI.
BUT IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE PRACTICE MATCH BEFORE IT ALL...
.. LAST YEAR WE DIDN'T MAKE IT OUT OF THE PRELIMINARIES, BUT THIS YEAR I THINK WE HAVE A PRETTY GOOD CHANCE.

CAN WE GO TOGETHER TODAY?
TO WHERE??!!
TO HOME
TO THE STATION.
HEY, COME ON, NARUSE!
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU GAVE UP ON MANAGER MACHIDA?
HM?
YOU SHOULDN'T GET TOO CARRIED AWAY OR YOU'LL SERIOUSLY GET SMACKED, YOU KNOW!
H...
HEY, WHATEVER HAPPENED TO YOU AND YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT THAT YOU'D GET A GIRLFRIEND, SENPAI?
HO...
COME ON, WHY'RE YOU ASKING THE OBVIOUS?
...HOW CAN HE ACT SO NORMAL, AS IF NOTHING EVER HAPPENED...
IT...
IT CAN'T BE THAT...

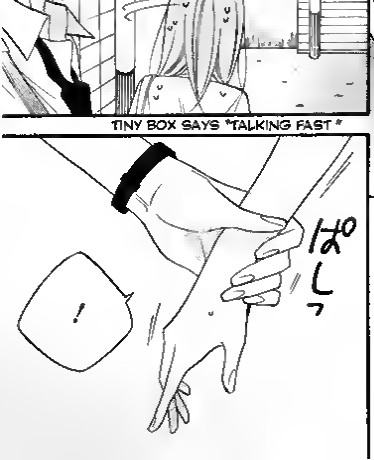
なまいきざかり。

WHO SAID THEY WERE GOING TO "STOP LIKING?"
WELL, IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE POSSIBLE, SINCE HE'S AN IDIOT..
HE HASN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, HAS HE?
It's so hot.

O-OH, THAT'S RIGHT, I'M IN A HURRY! YOU'RE TOO SLOW AT WALKING, SO I'M GOING TO GO ON AHEAD, SO..
IT'S NO GOOD! I DON'T THINK I CAN KEEP UP A CONVERSATION...

TINY BOX SAYS "TALKING FAST"

HE REMEMBERS IT VERY CLEARLY.
AND HE'S EVEN SUBTLY EXAGGERATING
WHERE WE HAD THAT TALK ABOUT HOW YOU'RE SUPER IN LOVE WITH ME?



ドキン
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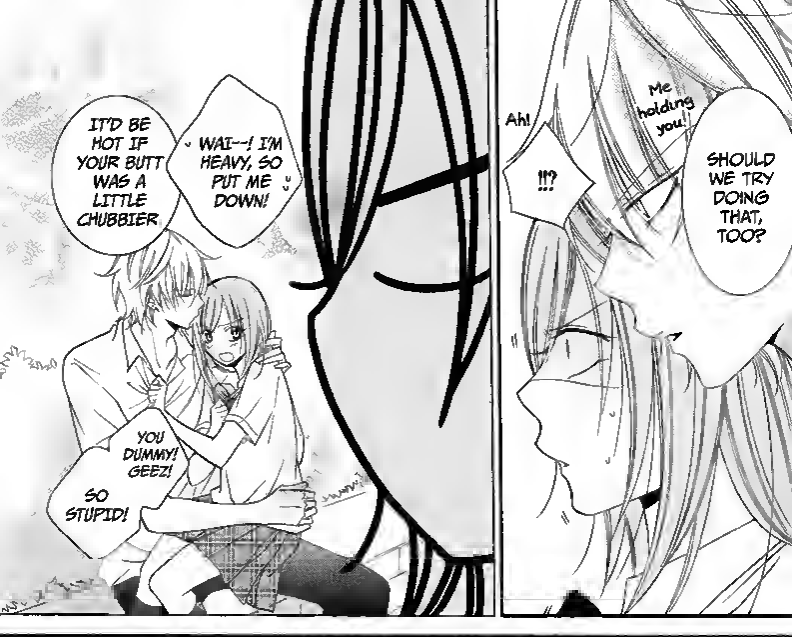
……
SIGH
...SENPAI, CLOSE YOUR EYES.
H...
UH?
YOUR EYES.
IT'LL LOOK LIKE I FORCED IT ON YOU IF YOU KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.
?! BUT THAT'S THE TRUTH, ISN'T IT?
NO, IT'S NOT ANYMORE, RIGHT?

BECAUSE WE'RE GOING OUT.
YUKI-SENPAI, YOU'RE MY GIRLFRIEND NOW.
...I!
I...!
I?
...I...!
I?
I'M GOING HOME!
THIS IS BAD.

THE FACT THAT I'M "GOING OUT" WITH NARUSE,
AND THAT I'M NARUSE'S G-G-GIRLFRIEND...!
WHEN I HEAR IT IN WORDS, I JUST...
I JUST HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO!!!
3-B
THE WHOLE THING WAS SO COMPLICATED FOR THE LONGEST TIME, AND SO SINCE IT TOOK US SO LONG TO BECOME A COUPLE, I JUST FEEL REALLY AWKWARD..
WHAT SHOULD I DO...
Tomoe! What're you going to do during self-study?
I dunno
BUT IT ALSO DOESN'T FEEL LIKE ANYTHING HAS REALLY CHANGED...
ACTUALLY...
Kiss (Seems implacable as of no.)
Hug? (Seems implacable as of no.)
Hold Hands (Seems implacable as of no.)
Homemade Bento (To be determined as of no.)
Go on Night Trips (Don't want to use the same resources over and over as no.)
WHAT DO COUPLES EVEN DO?
.....

I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I TOOK A REALLY LONG DETOUR WITH A TON OF COMPLICATIONS AND PROBLEMS,
BUT I THOUGHT I FINALLY MADE A STEP FORWARD AND NOW THIS...
THIS IS TOUGH!
I THOUGHT I HAD FINALLY FOUND THE ANSWER...
OW...
AHH, SORR...
OH, WHAT?

STOP FLIRTING AND PASS US THE BALL!
Whoa! There's that h-ball player's arm strength!
Uh...
BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET HURT WHILE PLAYING.
GEEZ...
See you later.
ACTING SO NONCHALANT, NOT EVEN REALIZING THE OTHER PERSON'S FEELINGS.
OH, COME NOW!
Kya-ha-ha-ha!
OI, NARUSE!
IT WAS YOU, YUKI-SENPAI?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING DURING LUNCH BREAK?
I...
I'M TAKING OUT THE TRASH, WASN'T IT OBVIOUS?
EHH...
BUT MAMI MUST BE HEAVY, RIGHT?
I GAINED 2 WHOLE KILOGRAMS!
EHHH, NOT AT ALL! YOU'RE FINE! YOU'RE AS LIGHT AS SEAWEED!
Kyaaa!
I DON'T GET IT, HAHA!
ALRIGHT, I'M TAKING IT NOW!
HERE WE GO, SAY "LOVE LOVE!"
HYAA!


Me holding you!
Ah!
!!?
SHOULD WE TRY DOING THAT, TOO?
WAI--! I'M HEAVY, SO PUT ME DOWN!
IT'D BE HOT IF YOUR BUTT WAS A LITTLE CHUBBIER
YOU DUMMY! GEEZ!
SO STUPID!

...WH...WHAT KIND OF STUPID JOKE IS THAT...
OH, SO YOU'RE NOT INTO IT AT ALL.
...IT'S...

IT'S SO POINTLESS.

"YUKI-SENPAI,"
"CAN I BE YOUR BOY FRIEND..?"
AT THIS POINT IT WOULD BE JUST LIKE A HILARIOUS JOKE
FOR NARUSE AND I TO ACTUALLY ACT LIKE A COUPLE...
LET'S JUST FORGET ABOUT THAT AND STUDY...
.....BUT, WELL...
TAP
WE REALLY ARE... DATING I GUESS...
Naruse
I'm bored and free
Hey Hey
I'm bored okay
Let's do our best at club tomorrow too Good night
...AND SEND.

HOW HE'LL REPLY...
DOKI! DOKI!
I WONDER..
CHIRP! CHIRP!
I-I BET HE'S JUST GOING TO SEND A BUNCH OF WEIRD EMOTES...
AHH, BUT HE MIGHT JUST SEND A NORMAL "GOOD NIGHT" RESPONSE TOO.
WH-WHAT DO I DO?! THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I SENT HIM ONE!
UWAA...!
Let's do our best at club tomorrow too Good night
CHIRP! CHIRP!
CHIRP! CHIRP!

WHOAAA!
KYAAAA!
Let me pet your hair!
GO GO NARUSE!
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?! HE'S REALLY FEELING IT TODAY!
DAMN IT... THE SECOND SEMESTER HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN AND THE GALLERY'S ALREADY BOOMING..
NICE, NARUSE!!

WHAT'S UP WITH THOSE PANDA EYES?
NOTHING.
AHH, YUKI-SENPAI,
.....
YESTERDAY I COMPLETELY FELL ASLEEP, SO I MISSED YOUR MESSAGE ON LINE...
I JUST STUDIED A LITTLE TOO MUCH, THAT'S ALL.
AGH...
I LOOK SO STUPID.
THINGS LIKE GOING OUT AND DATING,
THEY'RE NO BIG DEAL TO NARUSE.
GIRLFRIEND OR NOT,

IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S HIS FIRST TIME OR ANYTHING.
THAT'S WHY HE CAN JUST ACT SO CASUAL ABOUT IT ALL.
AND WHY HE CAN JUST LAND SHOTS LIKE THAT WITH CONFIDENCE.
AND THEN,
Good work today!
HERE I AM FLOUNDERING AROUND
LIKE AN IDIOT...
I'M THE ONLY ONE GETTING ALL EXCITED AND WORKED UP...
SENPAI,
ARE YOU STILL DOING WORK...

I LOOK SO STUPID...
SENPAI.
...YUKI-SENPAI.
ONI DEMON.
...YUKI?

AGH, WHAT AM I DOING DOZING OFF LIKE THAT...
NO.
DID YOU JUST CALL ME WITHOUT HONORIFICS?
.....?
SHUT UP, YOU'RE SO ANNOYING!
ANYWAY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING SLEEPING HERE WITH YOUR MOUTH HALF OPEN?
HEY, I WASN'T SLEEPING..
YOU WERE.
GEEZ, HOW LATE WERE YOU UP STUDYING?
...NOT THAT LATE.
DON'T LIE.
IF YOU DIDN'T, THEN HOW COME YOU HAVE THOSE PANDA EYES?
I WOULD HAVE SLEPT MUCH EARLIER IF YOU HAD ACTUALLY RESPONDED TO MY MESSAGE!
はぁ
ん？

I SAID "YES, THAT'S RIGHT!" DON'T MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF!
EH?
YOU DIDN'T SLEEP BECAUSE YOU WERE WAITING?
RESPONDED ...?
YOU DIDN'T SLEEP BECAUSE YOU WERE WAITING?
...YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
...WHAT?
I GET WORRIED AND STRESSED OVER EVERY LITTLE THING, AND I JUST STUMBLE AROUND ON MY OWN!
BUT UNLIKE YOU, EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS IS COMPLETELY NEW TO ME!
SURE, GO AHEAD, MAKE FUN OF ME IF YOU WANT!
ANYWAY...!
SO I WORRY A LOT AND GET EXCITED, ALL BY MY LONESOME!
BUT EVEN THOUGH IT'S MY FIRST TIME... I JUST THOUGHT IT'D BE REALLY NICE TO PROPERLY GO OUT WITH YOU...

SOME-ONE LIKE YOU
WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND AT ALL...
Haa... Haa...
...ARE YOU FIN-ISHED?
...YEAH.
MY TURN NOW?
GO AHEAD.
キュッ

!!
...!
HOLD ON A--!!
!?
!?
WAIT, HOLD ON, YOU'RE BURNING HOT!
DO YOU HAVE A FEVER OR SOME-THING?!
YEAH, I DO.
WHENEVER I'M WITH YOU, MY TEMPERATURE RISES ABOUT FIVE DEGREES.
Every time.
YOU LIAR!
I'M NOT LYING.
SQUEEZE...
...!
BA-THUMP!
...YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND ANYTHING EITHER, SENPAI. YOU DON'T KNOW...

...SO I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW,
I WAS SUPER PUMPED AND EXCITED ALL THE WAY UNTIL MORNING.
THAT WHEN I SAW THE FIRST EVER "GOOD NIGHT" MESSAGE YOU SENT ME,
THAT I WALK SLOWLY ON PURPOSE FOR YOU WHEN WE WALK HOME TOGETHER.
WHENEVER YOU COME AROUND.
THAT I ALWAYS BURN UP LIKE AN IDIOT
I'M PROBABLY A THOUSAND TIMES MORE EXCITED AND WORKED UP THAN YOU.
...NO WAY.
BECAUSE
THERE'S NO WAY!
I'M DEFI-NITELY
HAVING WAY MORE OF A HEART ATTACK THAN YOU.
Hah!
...THIS IS AMAZ-ING.
I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHOSE HEARTBEAT IS WHOSE.

WHAT?
...WHY ARE YOU MAKING THAT STERN DISCIPLINED MONK'S FACE?
!
.....
ARE YOU TRYING TO SMILE?
N~!
NO!
IT~!
IT'S JUST...!
...!
I THOUGHT...
YOU WERE GOING TO KISS ME...
OR SOMETHING...

...SENPAI.
!
IF YOU MAKE A FACE LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF THE GUY YOU'RE DATING,
YOU CAN'T COMPLAIN NO MATTER WHAT HAP-PENS, YOU KNOW?
BONK
I REALLY THINK
THAT AS WE CONTINUE TO BUMP INTO OBSTACLES AND STRUGGLE AGAINST EACH OTHER,
WE CONTINUE TO CHANGE, LITTLE BY LITTLE.

THEN I THINK TO MYSELF,
!
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO OPEN YOUR EYES YET
"I WONDER IF THE OLD ME FROM A YEAR AGO SAW US NOW, WHAT KIND OF FACE WOULD SHE MAKE?"
MMPH!

I HOPE THAT IN TWO YEARS,
OR EVEN THREE YEARS FROM NOW,
I'LL STILL BE ABLE TO LOOK BACK AND SAY THINGS LIKE THAT.
DING!
DING!
.....
DING!
DING!
DING!
.....THIS IS ANNOYING.
BLOOP!
DING!
Naruse
Good night
Oh wait, I mean,
Good night
I love you.
Did you fall asleep already??? I love you.
BLOOP!

35
CHAPTER

35
CHAPTER

A PRACTICE MATCH?
GO OBSERVE?
AHAHA, YOU'RE AFRAID OF MIXED-SEX SCHOOLS!
EVEN YESTERDAY SOME HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CAME AND GROPED YOUR ASS—
DON'T FUCKING TELL THAT TO THE CAPTAIN, GOT IT?
OKAY, OKAY, IT'S ALRIGHT!
WHICH TEAM AGAINST WHICH?
RYUUHOKU VERSUS ATSUMORI
I'M NOT GOING.
RYUUHOKU...
...WHERE'S THE LOCATION?

HIMENO-SAN!
YES?
ANYWAY, THE WINTER CUP PRELIMINARIES ARE COMING UP SOON,
SO CHECKING OUT THE ENEMY IS A PART OF TRAINING TOO, ISN'T IT?
PLEASE LISTEN TO IT!
READY AND...
WE'VE COME UP WITH A NEW CHEER ROUTINE FOR THE MATCH TOMORROW!
WHOA!
HE'S FINALLY COME, OUR GREAT BIG BRO!
HIS BRAINS TWO TIMES, AND HE SHOOTS 3-POINTERS TOO!
LET'S GO, LET'S GO, AMAMIYA!
IT'S ABOUT ME?! WHAT THE... HELL, NO!
PLEASE DO NOT MAKE YOUR OWN CHEERS UP FOLLOW MY GUIDELINES AS I'VE REQUESTED
THE SECOND SEMESTER HAS BEGUN, AND WE'RE HALFWAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER.

TOMORROW WE'RE HAVING A PRACTICE MATCH. WE HAVEN'T HAD ONE IN A WHILE
ATSUMORI HIGH SCHOOL... BASED ON THEIR STRENGTH, I THINK THIS WILL BE A GOOD MATCH.
WE CAN ALSO RELAX SINCE IT'S NOT AN OFFICIAL MATCH.
BUT WE SHOULDN'T LET OUR GUARD DOWN EITHER, GOTTA CONCENTRATE...
GIMME A KISS.
NO.
E... ENOUGH JUST GO HOME AND REST ALREADY.
THIS BRAT, ALWAYS HITTING IT WHERE IT HURTS!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST A PRACTICE MATCH, WE HAVE TO WIN..
OKAY.
I KNEW HE'D SAY THAT!
EVEN THOUGH YOU EVEN CLOSED YOUR EYES ON YOUR OWN THE OTHER DAY
TH..!
WHY NOT? CLUB IS OVER ALREADY
HEY, DO YOU NOT SEE THAT PEOPLE ARE AROUND AND HEAR PEOPLE TALKING?
Good work!
STINGY

NOW I CAN WIN
IT'LL BE A CINCH.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT..
Your treat!
Let's go eat something!
Ouu! Manuse!
I WAS REALLY WORRIED AND DESPERATE BECAUSE I THOUGHT MANUSE WAS GOING TO BE STOLEN FROM ME.
BUT THAT PROBLEM IS COMPLETELY GONE NOW.
ONE, TEN, HUNDRED THOUSAND TEN THOUSAND HUNDRED MILLION.

"WANT TO SEE YOU MAKE THAT FACE ANYMORE, YUKI-SENPAI."
CLUB IS CLUB, STUDYING IS STUDYING, AND ROMANCE IS ROMANCE.
NOW THE SITUATION IS WHAT IT IS, I CAN'T SKIMP OUT ON ANY OF THEM.
WRITE WRITE WRITE
WRITE WRITE WRITE
"I DON'T..."
"DRAW THE LINE."
THAT'S RIGHT...
TAP TAP
STOMP STOMP!
I'VE GOT TO GET TO SLEEP OR TOMORROW'S MATCH WILL BE...
..OH!
BUT IT'S ALREADY MIDNIGHT
I'VE GOT TO DO IT, AND DO IT WELL.
HAPPY BIRTH-DAY!!
FOR YOU
ONEE-CHAN!!

5
PROFILE #1
THIS TIME THE AUTHOR'S NOTE SPACES WERE DOUBLED SPENT MORE TIME THAN USUAL DEMONSTRATING WAY TO WRITE, BUT THEN I REALIZED THAT I NEVER REALLY INTRODUCED ANY OF THE OTHER CHARACTERS BESIDES THE MAIN TWO! SO I DECIDED TO PUT PROFILE DESCRIPTIONS!
HAKAMADA SHIZUKA (CURRENTLY AGE 17)
BORN ON SEPTEMBER 30TH, VIRGO BLOOD TYPE A
WITH AN OLDER BROTHER AND A YOUNGER BROTHER HE IS THE SECOND SON OF THE FAMILY BECAUSE HE WAS RAISED IN A FAMILY OF MALES, HE KNOWS NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT GIRLS AND BECOMES ANXIOUS WHEN AROUND THEM. HE LOVES EVERY MICROBIAL AND IS A VERY STOIC BOY
WHENEVER HE GOES TO HIS FRIENDS' HOUSES, IF THEY HAVE A SERIOUS POTTER, HIS EYES PLAY AROUND AS HE TRIES TO AVOID SEEING IT HE IS A VERY STOIC BOY OR MEN WEARS ONE HE WATCHES MARTIAL ARTS
FAVORITE COLOR: BLUE
THINGS HE HATES: SHRIMP AND CRABS BECAUSE THEY LOOK LIKE BUGS!
THINGS HE LIKES: UNKNOWN
HIMENO HIMIKO (CURRENTLY AGE 15)
BORN ON DECEMBER 30TH CAPRICORN. BLOOD TYPE O
BECAUSE OF HER UNIQUE NAME, SHE WAS OFTEN TEASED ABOUT IT WHICH LED TO HER DIFFICULTY IN BEING SOCIAL. ONLY CHILD OF THE FAMILY
SHE LOVES THE BEAUTIFUL SENTAI GIRLS SHOW, SO SHE OWNS A COLLECTION OF THE MAGICAL WANDS THEY USE TO TRANSFORM.
FAVORITE COLOR: WHITE
THINGS SHE HATES: CHEESE, BROWN, AND MAYONNAISE
THINGS SHE LIKES: MUSCULAR PEOPLE BUT SECRETLY SHE GETS EXCITED WHEN SHE SEES MUSCULAR MEN.)
...EH?
WHY'RE YOU SO CONFUSED? IT'S PAST TWELVE!
CONGRATULATIONS ON TURNING 18!
...OH...
Look, look, here's a present! Open it, Open it!
We actually wanted to bake a cake but...
NOW THAT THEY REMIND ME...
THAT'S RIGHT...

IVE BEEN WAY TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH STUFF LIKE GETTING ALONG WITH THAT GUY..
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE I FORGOT MY OWN BIRTH-DAY...
HEY WAIT, IN THIS SITUA-TION...
AM I SUPPOSED TO TELL NARUSE THAT TODAY'S MY BIRTHDAY? OR NOT?
WELL, HE HASN'T ASKED, AND I DIDN'T GIVE HIM ANYTHING FOR HIS BIRTHDAY, SO...
ANYWAY, TODAY'S THE MATCH, SO I DON'T HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT.
ALRIGHT...

I'LL KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT.
WH--!
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!
Is Naruse-kun here?
He's not

IT APPEARS TO BE THE AUDIENCE FOR TODAY'S MATCH
HM?
PEOPLE HAVE SUDDENLY BEGUN TO PAY ATTENTION TO US BECAUSE WE WENT TO THE KANTOU REGIONAL TOURNAMENT THEY ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN NARUSE
Miyuuki-senpai, please keep us...
EHH, WHAT THE HECK IS ALL THIS
EHH, THIS IS CRAZY ANNOYING...
HEY!!
!?
YOU'RE MISUZU HIGH'S ..!
STALKER!!
NO, YOU'RE MISTAKEN!
WHO'S STALKING WHO?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HIDING AROUND HERE?!
AH WAIT, THIS IS ..!
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MANAGER MACHIDA AGAIN?!
STALKER?
AH!
NARUSE!

THE OTHER DAY THIS GUY WAS SUPER PERSISTENT AND KEPT ASKING US WHERE MANAGER MACHIDA LIVES!
WHERE SHE LIVES?
EVEN JUST NOW WE CAUGHT HIM HIDING AND SUSPICIOUSLY LURKING AROUND!
HEYYY!
NISHI-YAN! AMAMIYA!
THE COACH IS CALLING FOR YOU GUYS!
AH!
THE COACH ISS?!
Yeah we should be out soon! The usual. Though he was more talkative today!
There was this guy who kept asking me where Machida lives! I mean I don't even know her address!
.....

..HEY, WHY'D YOU GO TO YUKI-SENPAI'S HOUSE?
..NO BIG REASON DOESN'T MATTER
ANYWAY,
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE GOING TO "GIVE UP ON LIKING HER?"
SO IT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU

"I DON'T WANT TO LET GO..."
HUH?!
YOU WERE THE ONE WITH SENPAI DURING THE FESTIVAL, WEREN'T YOU?
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! LET GO!
!
NOTHING!
YOU SUCK AT LYING.
You voice is shaking like crazy
N...
.....
...!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE? YOU'VE GOT TO START WARMING UP
NARUSE?
WHAT THE HELL?!
NOSE-BLEED?!
YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, THOUGH
IF NOTHING HAPPENED THEN YOU WOULDN'T BE HAVING A NOSE-BLEED
SHUT UP, LEAVE ME ALONE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
TALKING.
NO, WE'RE NOT!
HAKAMADA-KUN?!
YOU CAME TO SEE THE MATCH TOO.?
"MACHIDA-SAN?"
"DOES IT REALLY HAVE TO BE HIM?"
I DON'T GET IT AT ALL, LET'S JUST GO, SENPAI.
WHA!
WAIT A
SILENCE
...HEY, WHY'RE YOU BOTH GETTING AWKWARDLY SILENT LIKE THAT?

TH...
That's horrible!
THIS IS BAD!
N-NAKUSE!
THIS HAPPENED RIGHT BEFORE THE MATCH?!
THAT GUY DROPPED BY YOUR HOUSE IS THAT TRUE?
AH
THAT'S TRUE, BUT HE JUST CAME TO TALK ABOUT CLUB-RELATED THINGS!
I didn't invite him or anything!
THAT DOESN'T MATTER RIGHT NOW. TODAY IS..
FOCUS ON THE MATCH, RIGHT? I KNOW.
I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE IN FRONT OF THAT IDIOT.
IT'S HARD TO TELL, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY INCREDIBLY PISSED RIGHT NOW.
TO BE HONEST...

AND I DON'T KNOW WHY.

I WOULD BE LYING IF I SAID THAT NOTHING HAPPENED BETWEEN ME AND HAKAMADA-KUN

REGARDLESS OF HAKAMADA-KUN'S TRUE INTENTIONS,

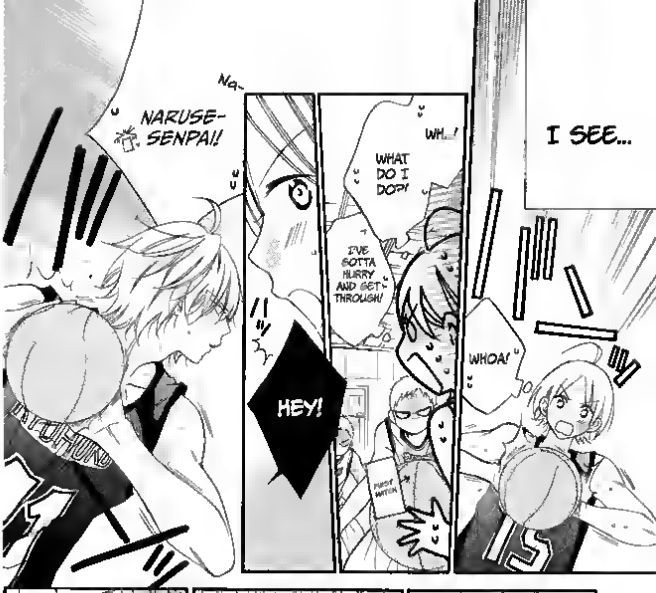
AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER I WAS AWARE OF EVERYTHING OR NOT,

"GRANDMA..."

I COMPLETELY EASED UP AND RELAXED MYSELF IN ANOTHER PERSON'S ARMS.

I HAVE TO FOCUS TOO.
RYUUHOKU
57
NICE ONE, NARUSE!
YES... YES, THIS IS GOING VERY WELL!
Keep it up!
..THANK GOOD-NESS.
I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO LOSE HIS COOL AND GO CRAZY, BUT HE'S CALM.
YESSSS!

.....
THEY WANTED TO USE TODAY'S GAME TO TRAIN THE FIRST AND SECOND YEARS, TOO
.....
WE'RE SWITCHING PLAYERS?
YES
THE THIRD-YEAR REGULARS WERE HAVING A CHAT ABOUT IT EARLIER.
Eh?!
..Y..YES!
..HATORI-KUN, NODA-KUN..
GET READY TO SWITCH IN


I SEE...
WHOA!
WH...!
WHAT DO I DO?!
I'VE GOTTA HURRY AND GET THROUGH!
HEY!
Na-
NARUSE-SENPAI!

IT'S NUMBER 11!
STOP HIM!
THE TEAM
WON'T BE THE SAME FOREVER.
NEXT UP...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
WILL BE NARUSE'S GROUP.
ワァァァ
WAAA! (CHEERING)
75
62

WAAA... I WAS SO NERVOUS...
Good job, Noda!
Wahahaha!
HEY, YOU THINK YUKI...
HE'S NOT MY FRIEND..
YOUR FRIEND IS QUITE POPULAR, ISN'T HE, HAKAMADA?
Hahaha!
AHHH, NARUSE-KUN WAS SO COOL.♡
RYUUHOKU WON! YAY!♡
WE BROUGHT HER BIRTHDAY PRESENT TODAY, BUT IF SHE'S TOO BUSY THEN I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW
It'll be two days late, though.
IS GOING TO HAVE TO CLEAN UP AFTER THIS?
PROBABLY

BIRTHDAY?!
"BIRTHDAY PRESENT?"
KOKU
HEY, HAKAMADA!
HM?
IF YOU SPACE OUT IN A PLACE LIKE THAT, YOUR ASS IS GOING TO GET GROPED AGAIN!
SORRY, BUT PLEASE GO ON AHEAD WITHOUT ME.
I'M NOT...
HUH?!
GOING TO BEAT AROUND THE BUSH ANY LONGER.
MACHIDA-SAN!
HAKAMADA-KUN.
...!

IS SOME-THING THE MATTER?
AH, THANK YOU FOR COMING TO WATCH US TODAY...
UM!
!
...IS...
IS SPECIAL.
THIS PERSON...

I REALLY DIDN'T MEAN TO DO THAT TO YOU.
THERE WAS NO REASON
FOR ME TO TALK ABOUT YOU AND SHOU LIKE THAT.
"HAKAMADA-KUN,"
...PLEASE, FORGET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY.

"I'D LIKE YOU TO STAY AS HIS RIVAL."
THAT'S WHY..
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO FOR HER.
ONLY ONE.
...SO,
THE NEXT TIME WE MEET WILL BE AT THE WINTER CUP PRELIMINARIES.
..YUP
ALSO,
I JUST OVERHEARD THIS FROM THE CROWD...
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
!
MACHIDA-SAN...
From who ?
From the crowd..?
TH...
THANK YOU..
I'LL BE GOING NOW

I WON'T LET YOU GUYS WIN ANYMORE.
ANY-WAY...
...AN...
HE SAID TO "FORGET IT," WHICH MEANS THAT...
HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN ME AT ALL, RIGHT? JUST LIKE I THOUGHT.
WELL, ANYWAY,
THAT JUST MEANS THAT IT'S ONE LESS THING FOR NARUSE TO SUSPECT ME OF.

WHAT DID HE MEAN BY "BIRTHDAY?"
THIS GUY...
WHEN DID HE...
SO, YOUR BIRTH-DAY? IS IT TODAY?
...PROB-ABLY...
WHY IS IT "PROBABLY?" WHY WERE YOU HIDING IT? WHY WON'T YOU LOOK AT ME?
H...HE'S NEVER USED THIS TYPE OF "WHY" ATTACK BEFORE!
WH...

WHAT DO I DO...
...
I WANTED TO BE...
.....
THE FIRST ONE TO TELL YOU "HAPPY BIRTH-DAY," YOU KNOW
SFX: PANGING PAIN IN HER HEART
OW, OW, IT STINGS!
HER HEART
AHH, JEEZ...
OUCH...

WHY AM I...
SO BAD AT THIS?
...TO TOP IT OFF,
I DON'T GET WHY I WAS BEATEN TO THE PUNCH BY SHIZUKA OF ALL PEOPLE
Mmm
EVEN THOUGH I TOLD MYSELF THAT
I WOULD DO MY BEST IN ALL THREE, CLUB, STUDYING, AND ROMANCE...
...I...
I WASN'T... TRYING TO HIDE IT OR ANYTHING...
I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO DISTRACT YOU RIGHT BEFORE THE MATCH..
AND IT WAS KIND OF HARD FOR ME TO SAY IT, TOO..
...BECAUSE I...
DIDN'T GET YOU ANYTHING FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY..
THAT WAS FINE.

IT'S OKAY, BECAUSE NOW I HAVE YOU.
I DON'T NEED ANYMORE PRESENTS
BUT HEY, WE'RE NOT HERE TO TALK ABOUT ME.
SENPAI, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT
I WANT TO REASSURE YOU, BUT...
WANT TO MAKE YOU WORRY ANYMORE EITHER.
I DON'T

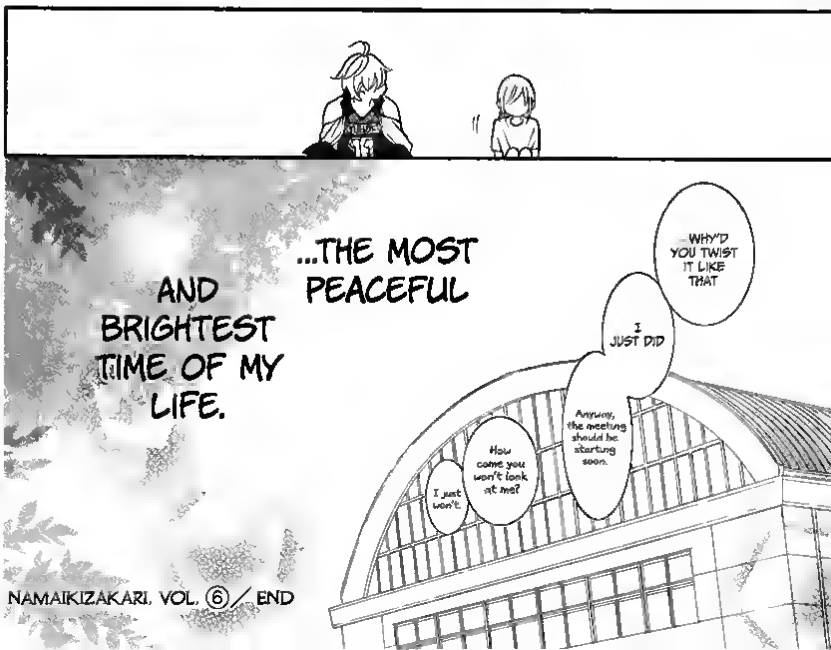
THEN,
I'M FINE TOO.
.....
PSYCHOKU
SQUEEZE!
IN ORDER TO GO OUT WITH SOMEONE...

HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY.
TO GET CLOSER TO SOMEONE...
YUKI-SENPAI,

AND TO STAY AS THE CLOSEST PERSON TO THEM...
SO AFTER SHIZUKA, WHAT NUMBER AM I?
IT'S FRIGHTEN-ING HOW STUCK HE IS ON THIS.
SO WITH HAKAMADA-KUN... YOU'RE THE 7TH.
HOW COME THERE ARE SO MANY?
THEY'RE ALL MY SIBLINGS.
And my mom.
YOU NEED TO PUT IN EFFORT.
Huh
YOU PUSH ME AWAY?
I'M NOT!

SINCE YOU'RE 18 NOW...
HEY, YOU KNOW...
...I'M SURE THAT MY 18TH YEAR WILL BE...

YOU CAN WATCH R-18 THINGS
AND DO A BUNCH OF STUFF NOW, RIGHT?
LIKE DRIVING A CAR.
Nice try


...THE MOST PEACEFUL
AND BRIGHTEST TIME OF MY LIFE.
WHY'D YOU TWIST IT LIKE THAT
I JUST DID
Anyway, the meeting should be starting soon.
How come you won't look at me?
I just won't.